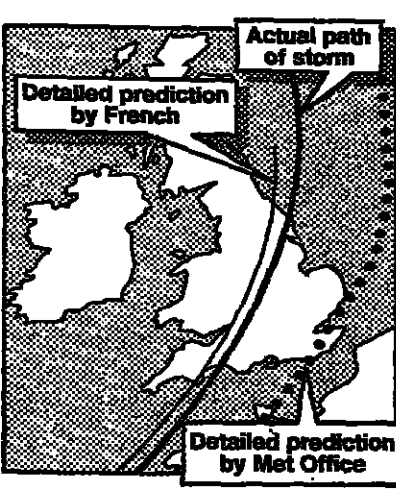


Scientists' judgement blamed for storm failure



By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent, and Ruth Gledhill

The Meteorological Office failed to give adequate warning of the Great Storm last October because its scientists put too much trust in the predictions of an out-of-date computer, according to an investigation commissioned by the Ministry of Defence.

The MoD yesterday published two reports on the performance of the Met Office on the night of 15/16 October last year, when an estimated £835 million worth of damage was caused and 20 people killed by winds gusting over 100 mph.

The first, the result of an internal inquiry carried out by Professor John Houghton, director-general of the Met Office, blames a lack of information

about weather developing over the Atlantic for the failure.

It rejected claims that meteorologists in other countries were more successful in predicting the storm, and concludes: "The damage to trees and property could not have been avoided however accurate the forecasts might have been."

However, the second report, commissioned by the MoD to give an independent assessment of the internal inquiry, said that Britain's weathermen failed to appreciate the severity of the developing storm as well as their counterparts in France.

The authors of the independent report, Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the University Grants Committee, and Professor Robert Pearce, head of the meteorology department at Reading University said: "It must be stressed that the French were forecasting for France

and not for England... However, it is our impression that on this particular occasion the French forecasters showed the better appreciation of the nature of the phenomenon they were dealing with."

The British forecasters "followed the guidance of their model too closely and did not recognize a situation in which the model was likely to underestimate the strength of the winds."

Sir Peter said yesterday: "They did get it wrong, but they didn't make scandalous and disgraceful mistakes." The Met Office had been the victim of "considerable unfortunateness," he said.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, said in the Commons last night that he had accepted all the recommendations made by Sir Peter and Professor Pearce. Where further action was required, it would be taken as soon as possible.

Mr Younger said that the report found that the lack of adequate public warning occurred because uncertainty about atmospheric conditions in the Biscay area led to a lack of agreement between computer forecasts, and because the forecasters did not recognize that the computer forecasts would underestimate the speed of the wind over Britain. No individual was seriously to blame, he added.

The report calls for training of Britain's weathermen to be stepped up, to give them the scientific background needed to recognize poor computer predictions: "Compared with the French forecasters, the training which ours receive is shorter (and therefore cheaper) and lays less emphasis on meteorological theory."

French weathermen complete two years of a degree course in mathematics or physics, followed by three years at a meteorological college in Toulouse. British weathermen, in contrast, typically have just a first degree, plus on-the-job training.

The computer used by the Met Office is also considerably slower than that used by the French. The independent report says that Met Office must always have the most powerful computer available at its disposal.

Since the storm, the Met Office has invested in a new £5 million computer which is eight times more powerful than the one used in October. The authors of the independent report said they were "relieved" at the decision to invest in a new computer.

Outcry greets Botha's curbs on opposition

By Michael Hornsby in Johannesburg and Nicholas Beeston in London

Sweeping new measures imposed by Pretoria to curb extra-parliamentary opposition in South Africa evoked widespread condemnation both at home and abroad yesterday.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, warned President Botha that his "repressive actions could lead to violence," while Archbishop Desmond Tutu, speaking in Cape Town, branded the measures as "vicious and provocative."

South African black leaders said President Botha was "heading for war" with his own country.

The curbs effectively closed 17 leading anti-government organizations and severely

Bitter Sweet job sharing



Valerie Musterson (left) and Anne Mackay, backstage at the Sadler's Wells Theatre, London, last night, at the premiere of the revival of Noel Coward's operetta, *Bitter Sweet*. The two are sharing the demanding lead role on alternate nights. (Photograph: Alan Weller)

Government to change health pay timetable

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The Government unveiled a package of measures yesterday aimed at speeding up decisions on public sector pay and warned health authority managers that there would be no justification in the coming financial year for cuts in services.

Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told the Commons that ministers recognized the dilemma authorities faced in planning future spending before knowing the outcome of pay review body reports.

Accordingly, the timetable would be changed from next year, with the bodies reporting by mid-February at the latest. It was too late to change the timetable this year, but the Government would do all in its power to come to swift decisions and hoped to make announcements by the end of April.

In spite of intense pressure from the Labour benches, Mr Major flatly refused to give any pledge over government funding of the awards, which will cover nurses, midwives, doctors, dentists and the armed forces.

Many Conservative MPs remain convinced, however, that nurses will be treated generously, with their award being underpinned by a substantial injection of extra cash from the contingency reserve.

Mr Major, giving no ground to those demanding a Budget increase of up to £2 billion for the National Health Service, effectively told health authorities to freeze any plans they had for closing wards.

"It would be premature and unacceptable to put into effect service reductions on the grounds of uncertainty," he said.

He echoed the remarks of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, in condemning NHS strikes, and said the concern of nurses over their pay and career prospects was being speedily addressed.

In such circumstances, he hoped that the "minority" Patients' lobby would be taking industrial action would realize that strikes were both unnecessary and damaging to patients and the service.

Health authorities and trade unions said last night that "juggling" with the dates of review body reports would have only a marginal effect on the problems faced by health authorities.

The biggest stoppage yet staged in Scotland by health unions affected hospitals all over the country yesterday.

As up to 50,000 health workers went on a 24-hour strike, many services were without emergency cover.

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

THE TIMES

● Schools are rising to the challenge of The Times Tournament of the Mind.

● Schools can enter as many teams of up to 10 pupils as they like, with the chance of winning an IBM Personal System/2 Model 30 computer.

● The top ten school teams will be invited to play in the Tournament Final along with the top 100 individual scorers.

● Today is Round Three of the contest, but if you missed Days One and Two - don't worry. For this week only, all the week's questions, with answer forms, will appear in Saturday's paper.

● For today's questions, turn to page 12.

Israelis divided by Shultz Middle East peace shuttle

By Ian Murray in Jerusalem and Richard Beeston in London

Prompted by 10 weeks of violent unrest in the Israeli occupied territories, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, flies into Jerusalem today to promote an American solution.

More details of the ambitious negotiating schedule envisaged by the Americans emerged yesterday. But it was clear last night after senior Cabinet Ministers of the two main Government factions failed to agree a joint position on his mission, that the most difficult aspect of his trip will be to coax the Likud Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, and the King Hussein of Jordan into negotiations.

Mr Shultz plans to make daily visits to Arab capitals during his tour - the most intensive US shuttle in the Middle East since Dr Henry Kissinger criss-crossed the region in the mid-1970s. He will go to Cairo, Amman and even Damascus, and is setting aside his evenings for separate meetings with Mr Shamir and the Labour Foreign Minister, Mr Shimon Peres.

He may fly to London to see King Hussein at the end of his trip. He will not see any Palestinians, who have been warned by the Palestine Liberation Organization not to take part in any meeting.

Exact details of the American initiative have probably not yet been finalized, but diplomats said they consist of five main points. The process would open with a five-nation "interim meeting" in Washington in mid-April between Israeli, Jordanian, Egyptian, Soviet and US leaders. The aim would be to initiate talks, also including Palestinian representatives acceptable to Israel, towards an "interim agreement" six months later.

From October this year to February 1989 the members of the group would prepare to apply the agreement, which would come into force in a year's time. Notwithstanding progress on the negotiations, the group would set a December deadline on negotiations for a final settlement.

Although couched in terms vague enough to satisfy all the parties at this stage, the Shultz initiative is based on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories, Continued on page 22, col 7

Dublin agrees to police talks

By John Cooney

The Irish Government yesterday agreed to lift its ban on the holding of cross border security meetings between Sir John Hermon, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and Mr Eamonn Doherty, in a move calculated to ease the tension in Anglo-Irish relations.

The British Government, as a concession to Dublin, gave details of legislation which will be announced next week to outlaw job discrimination against Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland.

The timing of yesterday's announcement confounded Ulster Unionists who had predicted that the Anglo-Irish Agreement was on the point of collapse as the two governments publicly squabbled over the Stalker-Sampson report and the Irish government's inquiry into the shooting of Aidan McAneaspie on the border on Sunday.

The decision to resume top level security talks was apparently taken at a meeting yesterday in Dublin of the Anglo-Irish conference, jointly chaired by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister.

Last night, Mr King told reporters that there would be another conference shortly at which the two chairmen would be joined by Sir John and Mr Doherty.

"The Garda commissioner and the chief constable will be sitting down with us and will be working to develop cross border security," Mr King said.

Later, however, Dublin appeared to throw the issue into some confusion.

It maintained that no

Arab villagers lynch Israeli 'collaborator'

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The violent unrest in the occupied territories took an ominous turn with the lynching yesterday of a suspected Arab collaborator who is believed to have shot and killed a four-year-old boy.

The lynching was reported in the village of Khabatayeh, south of Jenin, in the West Bank. Palestinian sources said that in the morning villagers attacked the home of Mohamed Ayed, who was locally believed to work for Shin Bet, Israel's counter-intelligence agency.

As the angry crowd approached, hurling stones and bottles, Mr Ayed opened fire with his licensed Uzi machine gun. A four-year-old boy was killed.

The villagers then made repeated attacks on the house, eventually setting it on fire. The man ran out with his clothes on fire and the villagers caught him and dragged him to the village square, beating him. They then hauled the man off to the edge of the village where they hanged him from an electricity pylon.

Britain boasts a magnificent seven billionaires

By Cliff Feltham

Did you know that Michael Caine is worth a lot more than Benny Hill - £7 million more at £17 million, in fact? Jeffrey Archer, at £11 million, is worth £1 million more than fellow thriller writer Frederick Forsyth. Richard Branson of Virgin (£130 million) is worth more than pop stars Elton John, Mick Jagger, George Harrison, David Bowie, Freddie Mercury and Mark Knopfler put together.

These and other minutiae of the British rich, famous and not-so-famous are detailed in a list of the 200 richest people in Britain - which also includes a former street trader, office typist, boxer and Shakespearean actor.

Top of the list is the Queen, worth an estimated £3.34 billion, while comedian Benny Hill and Dire Straits guitarist Mark Knopfler slip into the foot of the charts with £10 million each - the minimum needed to be considered seriously rich these days.

The list, compiled by Money magazine, reveals that Britain has seven billionaires and 18 families and individuals whose wealth exceeds £250 million. The country also has 20,000 millionaires.

The second wealthiest person in the country is Sir John Moores, founder of the Littlewoods pools and mail order empire, estimated to be worth £1.7 billion, ahead of food magnate Garry Weston, £1.5 billion, and the Duke of Westminster, £1.4 billion.

In fact, only five aristocratic families make it into the top 20, with self-made men outnumbering those who inherited their fortune by more than two-to-one.

The greatest fortunes have been made from retailing and food, with the Sainsbury family worth about £1 billion, the same as the Vestey butchers' dynasty.

The survey, pieced together over the past six months from culling financial records and "guesstimates" from city analysts, shows the total wealth of the 200 comes to £26.56 billion, although it was quite a few million higher before the stock market crash in October.

Mr Alan Sugar, the founder of the Amstrad hi-fi and computer group who began selling airtels from the back of a van, lost an estimated £100 million in the crash, but is still ranked

Cheating row plea

The Queen may be called in to adjudicate in an academic storm over a university student who has been branded a cheat.

Mr Francis Foecke, a mathematics student is fighting to prove his innocence and for the first-class honours degree which Bristol University refused.

It is his appeal, which begins next week, fails. Mr Foecke will petition the Bristol University Visitor, the Queen, who could exercise her function as adjudicator.

Battle for honour, page 5

Twelve features that put James Meade Shirts in a class of their own

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● £72,000 to be won in today's Portfolio Accumulator, plus the £4,000 daily prize (Yesterday's winner, page 3).

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Report criticizes commission

Charities are wide open to fraud and abuse, say MPs

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A devastating indictment of the performance of the Charity Commission was published yesterday by an all-party group of MPs.

The commission's neglect, complacency and inertia had left Britain's £10 billion-a-year charities wide open to fraud, abuse and maladministration, the Commons Public Accounts Committee said.

In probably its most damning report since its investigation of the De Lorean sports car scandal in 1985, the committee took the commission to task on virtually every important aspect of its work and rejected its plea of inadequate resources. "Why is it that because they could not do everything they did nothing?" asked Mr Robert Sheldon, the

committee chairman, yesterday.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, a Labour member of the committee, said that the commission had got by on trust and a low profile for far too long. The committee's report would "blow the lid off its activities and lead to the most searching questions being asked by the giving public."

The committee demanded urgent government legislation to strengthen the commission's monitoring powers and immediate "vigorous action" to improve its performance within its existing powers. The alternative was a disastrous loss of confidence in charities by the public.

The Home Office re-

sponded immediately by confirming that legislation would be introduced in this Parliament to strengthen the commission's powers to police charities in line with the recommendations of last year's Woodfield report.

The committee said it was "gravely concerned" at the risk of fraud and abuse in the burgeoning charities industry, particularly in the field of fund-raising, and accused the commission of "complacency". The Metropolitan Police had felt sufficiently concerned to set up a charity fraud unit.

Tax exemptions to charities now totalled £2.5 billion a year. There were wide discrepancies between charities in the amount of income consumed by overheads and

administration costs. Nearly a quarter had administrative expenses amounting to more than 60 per cent of income.

In spite of this "extremely worrying situation", only 14 of the commission's 330 staff were employed on investigative work and the commission did not employ a qualified accountant or solicitor need to recruit one.

The report said the commission's register of more than 150,000 charities was "seriously out of date and unreliable", and inclusion was no indication of a charity's trustworthiness.

The report severely criticized the commission's failure to enforce the statutory requirement for charities to submit annual accounts. Less than a quarter of charities had submitted any accounts in the previous five years, and practically none had been sent reminders by the commission. Of those that were submitted, less than a third had been professionally audited.

The commission had failed to take such elementary steps as publishing lists of defaulters. It did not conduct spot checks. MPs said the commission's passive approach to registration must change. Mr Sheldon said the will to act had not been there.

In response to the commission's plea of inadequate resources, the committee said it could not accept this as sufficient justification for its failure to take more active steps to monitor and investigate charities.

Mr Robin Guthrie, the Chief Commissioner, who took over from Mr Denis Peach earlier this month, said he was unable to comment directly on the report until the Government had formally responded. He said he accepted that "we are going to have to be much more active in policing charitable concerns".

The commission said it had been trying unsuccessfully for 13 years to win government approval for computerization of its register.

Public Accounts Committee: Monitoring and Control of Charities in England and Wales. (HMSO; £3.60).

Man in the News

Ready to ring the changes

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

The Home Office already has a convincing answer to criticism of the Charity Commission: a new and energetic chief commissioner, who arrived only this month after running a leading charity for many years and campaigning for reform of charity supervision.

Mr Robin Guthrie, former director of the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust, not only starts with a clean slate as far as criticism of the Commission goes. His Rowntree background has given him experience of business management methods which the Public Accounts Committee

said yesterday must be applied to charities.

Mr Guthrie, aged 52, will undoubtedly ring the changes. His predecessor was a career Civil Servant. He, by contrast, taught in inner London schools and worked on social projects for the Peterborough Development Corporation before joining the Memorial Trust.

"I envisage perhaps a livelier policy development process", he said.

He is against some block-busting redefinition of charitable purposes, called for after the controversy over the status of the Unification Church (the Moonies) and the Scientologists.

"It has to be a process of evolution. A definition of charity cannot be frozen in time. We are still working with charity law stemming from the reign of Elizabeth I, but should always remember how strictly she defined the church she liked as 'religion' and the church she disliked as 'superstition', and hence undeserving of charitable status."

Mr Guthrie's immediate task is to push forward the modernization of the Com-

mission and improve its reputation on monitoring and investigating abuses. The Home Office recently announced it had accepted the recommendations for a scrutiny of charities by Sir Philip Woodfield, but legislating changes in the Commission's powers will take time.

One controversy that may land on Mr Guthrie's desk soon is related to the effect on charities of the new social security provisions due to come into force in April.

The Department of Health and Social Security has announced that its officers may have to take account of what charities can offer poor people. Voluntary workers are asking whether this would infringe charities' original aims by forcing them to substitute for state provision.

Charities are often referred to as big business, but Mr Guthrie knows that they are better described as a myriad of small operations with huge variations in standards of accounting and performance. Few others could have brought to the job of supervising charities Mr Guthrie's experience and sympathy for what they are trying to do.



Robin Guthrie: starting with a clean slate

Maigret touch in Notting Hill



M. Marc Becam, a French crime prevention expert with an indispensable Maigret pipe, observing British policing techniques in Notting Hill, west London. Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, welcomed M Becam on his arrival yesterday. Last October, Mr Patten visited France to study crime prevention methods. (Photograph: John Rogers).

Child sexual abuse

Council explains referrals

By Craig Seton

A county council explained yesterday why it had referred families involved in allegations of child sexual abuse to a private consultancy after a threefold rise in the number of reported cases.

Hereford and Worcester County Council said that the Sexual Abuse Child Consultancy Service (SACCS) was used because of limited experience of sexual abuse cases among its own social workers.

The parents of a young girl who is alleged to have been sexually abused are to take legal action in an attempt to stop the council referring them to the service, which is run by three women social workers from an office in Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

SACCS was called in after the number of alleged cases in Hereford and Worcester rose from about 30 in 1986 to 99 last year.

Its role has been criticized privately by solicitors representing couples whose children were alleged to have been sexually abused.

Next week an official of the Department of Health and Social Security and the county's social services department will review 10 cases taken at random from last year's figures, to assess the sexual abuse referral procedure the county had adopted.

Mr David Tombs, the county's director of social services, denied yesterday that the county had experienced a crisis of child sexual abuse allegations on the scale of that in Cleveland last year.

Mr Tombs said that only a small proportion of the county's alleged cases, 19 out of the 99, had been referred to social workers by consultant paediatricians, unlike those in Cleveland.

"When the pressure was building up in our social services department, we had a limited number of people dealing with allegations of sexual abuse and we looked to this independent body who specialized in this sort of work."

"They were doing the social

work element with families and children."

Mrs Jean Hadley, chairman of the social services committee, said that although the number of allegations of sexual abuse rose sharply because of greater public awareness, many were not substantiated once they had been investigated properly.

"We had an increased number of referrals, but the number of children sent into care was much smaller than we thought it might be", she said.

Social work officials in Hereford and Worcester said that SACCS was not involved in referring cases of alleged sexual abuse. Mrs Madge Bray, who set up SACCS, was not available for comment yesterday.

Last year, in the aftermath of the Cleveland crisis, Hereford and Worcester adopted new guidelines whereby alleged cases of child sexual abuse had to be confirmed by a paediatric consultant from a different health district.

Portfolio

PLUS NEW

Accumulator

Mr Mark Chilton, aged 56, of Radnor, Shropshire, won £4,000 yesterday in The Times Portfolio Gold competition.

Mr Chilton retired recently after 30 years in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as chairman of a trading company, and now enjoys travelling, stamp collecting and boating on the Thames. He plans to spend his winnings on a trip to Spain this summer with his family.

"I've been playing Portfolio since it started," he said.



Mr Mark Chilton: taking his family on holiday to Spain

Court told man killed 3 in blaze

A woman on her death-bed named her jealous lover as the man who killed her and their two young sons by setting fire to their home, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The prosecution said neighbours saw Caroline Bexfield, aged 25, engulfed in flames staggering around her garden, screaming. Her sons, Richard, aged four, and Gary, aged two, died inside the house at Revesby Road, Carshalton, Surrey and Miss Bexfield died in hospital.

Saif Fares, aged 38, a dry-cleaner, has denied the murder on February 17 last year but admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

The day after Miss Bexfield told Fares, who lived in Tooting, south London, she was planning to live with a former boyfriend, he threatened to kill himself at her home, the court was told.

At her home he tied her up but she struggled free and went upstairs to her younger son Gary. From the window she saw Fares with three containers. As she walked down the stairs with Gary in her arms Fares was pouring petrol around the house.

He then threw it over her, snatched Gary, and lit a match. The prosecution said Miss Bexfield told a policeman and a magistrate at the hospital: "I was dreadfully on fire".

The trial continues today.

TV complaints action urged

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Television companies may soon have to give increased prominence to upheld complaints about programmes which treat people unfairly or invade their privacy unnecessarily.

The Broadcasting Complaints Commission, an independent statutory body which adjudicates on complaints from the public, has written to the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority suggesting key changes to the way their findings are conveyed to the public.

At the moment often lengthy summaries of upheld complaints are read out on television, usually at a time

similar to that at which the offending programme was broadcast, without the public being able to see the conclusions in printed form on television.

The commission believes that system lessens the impact of critical findings, and does not present them in a form the viewer can understand easily.

The commission proposes the showing of shorter summaries in printed form on the screen. They should also be read out.

The commission also wants its London address to be included in the printed summary.

The new moves come at

time when the future of the BBC is unclear, given the Government's intention to set up a Broadcasting Standards Council.

The commission upheld 12 complaints during the financial year ending in April 1987. The new watchdog body will be concerned much more with standards, particularly those of programmes with sexual or violent content.

The Government has yet to make clear in any form what the relationship will be between the complaints commission, the new standards body, and the BBC and IBA on the question of programme content and public criticism.

Greater powers sought to pursue international criminals

By Frances Gibb

Proposals to give police and prosecuting authorities greater powers to pursue criminals across international borders were outlined in a consultation paper published yesterday.

The proposals for mutual legal assistance with EEC and Commonwealth countries would enable countries to cooperate more closely in fighting international crime such as drug trafficking and fraud.

In particular, they would give British police powers of search and seizure of material abroad. Prisoners could be transferred from abroad to appear as witnesses and those wanted abroad could be held in legal custody in Britain.

Radical proposals to enable groups of litigants to obtain legal aid to bring "class actions" for the first time in the English courts were outlined by the Lord Chancellor yesterday.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern has tabled amendments to the Legal Aid Bill which could help groups of claimants, such as in the Open case, where there are common issues. More people could be eligible for legal aid under the proposals which may involve a means test for some people.

He is proposing that the new Legal Aid Board should have the power in certain cases to select a firm or firms of solicitors to represent groups of people with a common grievance.

There would also be better arrangements for taking evidence for use in investigations and proceedings abroad.

At present there is only limited mutual assistance between Britain and other countries in combating crime. This has in turn limited cooperation received by the British prosecuting authorities.

Proposals in the Criminal Justice Bill to modernize extradition laws have passed the committee stage. Measures to provide mutual assistance in the freezing and confiscation of proceeds of serious crime

will be put to MPs today.

Under the confiscation proposals, powers applying to drug traffickers' assets will be extended to other serious offences, enabling a criminal's assets to be frozen.

They would also enable other countries to use High Court procedures to have assets

frozen in Britain.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, announcing the measures yesterday, said: "The United Kingdom is at present seriously hampered in providing mutual legal assistance."

International Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Room

340, Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 9AT; free).

The Lord Chancellor's Department has rejected a plea that judges should not make personal observations about rape victims.

Mr Neil Taylor, Plaid Cymru's spokesman on legal affairs, said suggestions by judges that victims were asking for trouble or were foolish, or that cases were at the lower end of the scale, did nothing to reassure women.

In a written reply, the department said: "It is a cardinal feature of our constitution that judges are independent and not accountable to ministers for the exercise of their judicial functions. This freedom inevitably extends to what they say in the course of proceedings and in forming a view of the case they are entitled to express their views as they think right."

Stress 'as big a killer as Aids'

By John Spicer

Employment Affairs Correspondent

Stress among working men and women is so great that should be given the same attention as diseases such as Aids, an expert said yesterday.

Dr Sandra Harrington told a London conference "women in employment stress caused as many deaths and as much human misery as Aids, but received none of it money for research and public information."

Stress was "the 20th century disease", different from other diseases because people could not catch it or take drugs to cure it, she said.

She told the conference that 65 per cent of people working in the City considered stress their primary health concern. Single career-minded women and married career-minded mothers were generally at risk from other groups of women, but executives, managers, and secretaries also suffered stress.

Dr Mills, who runs a stress management consultancy, Castleford, West Yorkshire said many business women failed to help themselves because job demands deny them time to acquire help, a they resorted to "medicines" that was often too strong a taken too frequently.

She said companies should provide on-site health care programmes. "The rewards performance would be worth the cost", she said.

FBI on the trail of artful night raider

The FBI is making great efforts to recover 28 works of art stolen from Colnaghi's New York premises in a daring night raid.

On Monday they ran advertisements in the New York Times and Post offering rewards worth 10 per cent of the value of whatever is retrieved and 20 detectives have been put on the case.

The 21 paintings and seven drawings, including *Still Life with a Rayfish* and a *Basket of Onions* by Chardin, *Classical Landscape with Two Figures* by Poussin and *Saint Dominic and John the Baptist* by Fra Angelico, were taken after a thief swung himself on a rope across a gap between tall buildings to enter the premises.

After dismantling the alarm system, the thief and his accomplices took their pick of



By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

the smaller works and left by the roof hatches.

"The FBI have no leads, the works seem to have vanished into thin air", Mr Stephen Rudgate, Colnaghi's managing director, said yesterday. He fears the paintings may suffer irreparable damage outside the gallery's carefully-regulated environment.

A number of lesser post-impressionist crept up the price scale at Sotheby's, London, yesterday, although over 26 per cent of the sale remained unsold. A dappled pink scene by Henri Lebasque achieved top price, doubling its estimate, when it sold

anonymously for £45,100.

Among the routine landscapes and nudes, an action-packed picture of galloping cowboys and Indians by Maximilien Luce was a welcome surprise. Its price remained within estimate at £22,000.

In the modern paintings sale, Seibu, the Japanese department store, spent £22,000 on a still life, dated 1968, by the French artist Bernard Buffet.

The sale totalled over £1 million, with 65 per cent of the goods selling to private buyers.

Christie's held a successful English and foreign coins and medals sale yesterday, at which virtually everything sold, although prices remained modest. Top price was for an 1847 Victoria Gothic crown, which sold to the dealer Spink for £1,375, against an estimate of £700 to £800. Chelsea Coins paid £1,078 - within estimate - for a Victoria specimen set ranging from 25 down to a threepenny bit. The sale total was £105,297.

Christie's did phenomenally well with the first of its two-day sale of paintings and furniture in Rome yesterday, totalling double their pre-sale estimate at £435,000, with 99.5 per cent sold. Almost every lot doubled its estimate, and top prices included £51,600 for an ornate eighteenth century Piedmontese table.

Brain tissue graft in Parkinson's cases

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Doctors are preparing to perform the first brain tissue transplant in Britain, treating patients with Parkinson's disease by grafting tissue taken from an aborted foetus.

However, the decision to proceed rests on the results of tests at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, using revolutionary equipment called a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner to provide pictures of biochemical activity in the brain.

The PET scanner will be used to examine two patients from Sweden, who received the first brain tissue grafts in Europe at Lund University, near Malmo, Sweden, last autumn.

The tests will show whether the implanted cells have survived and are producing dopamine, one of 40 chemical messengers in the brain. A deficiency of dopamine is associated with Parkinson's disease, which causes progressive muscle paralysis.

The implants were performed by a

team working with Dr Olle Lindvall, associate professor of neurology at Lund University Hospital. He said yesterday that the patients had been examined on the PET scanner in London before the operation.

The tissue implants do not involve the transfer of entire sections of brain. Instead, individual young cells which are known to be producers of dopamine are selected and injected as a fluid in the recipient's brain.

Collaborative research between Lund University and a team led by Dr Stephen Darnett, of Cambridge University, in treating a condition equivalent to Parkinson's disease in rats and mice, found that the most suitable material for grafts would come from a foetus aged between seven and ten weeks.

Dr Richard Frackowiak, of the Hammersmith Hospital, and Professor David Marsden, of the National Hospital, central London, are working with Dr Lindvall in monitoring the progress of

the Swedish patients. Provided the grafts succeed, they will head a transplant team based at the National and the Middlesex Hospitals, west London, for treatment of patients with Parkinson's disease who have volunteered to have brain-tissue transplants.

Other specialists on the team include Dr Gerald Stern, Mr David Thomas, Dr Andrew Lees, Dr Lees estimated that about 8,000 abortions at the seven to ten week stage were carried out in Britain each year. If brain grafts did prove, women having abortions would be asked to give their consent for the tissue to be used for the implants.

The British Medical Association, drawing up ethical guidelines covering any possible use of an aborted foetus source of donor tissue.

Foetal brain cell transfer operation could have implications for many other brain disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, which causes premature senility through an excessive loss of brain cells.

February 24 1988

PARLIAMENT

Anger from both sides at Europe VAT ruling

There was angry reaction from both sides of the Commons to the European Court of Justice ruling that Britain must impose value-added tax on certain spectacles and other goods.

Mr Peter Lilley, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, told MPs that the Government must abide by the court judgement.

Replying to a private notice question from Mr Nigel Spearman (Newham South, Lab), he said that the Government would have to study the judgement in detail and consult trade bodies before taking firm decisions on how to proceed.

Any amendment to UK law imposing taxation would have to be agreed by the Commons.

The decision had nothing to do with the European Commission's proposals for the approximation of VAT rates. These required new legislation and could only be adopted unanimously. The Government had made it abundantly clear that Britain would not consent to the loss of zero rates.

The case had no bearing on infringement proceedings taken against Britain's zero-rating of fuel, power and construction services by the Commission. Those were brought under a different article of the Sixth Directive and the legal arguments were entirely different.

Mr Spearman said that this was the first occasion for more than 300 years that any person or body had imposed a view on the House or the British Government concerning the taxation of the British people. Was not this judgement and any resulting proposal of the Government more of constitutional importance than financial or health, important though they are?

Yesterday, the minister had said that the Government would ask the House to pass legislation even if it were against the will of both Government and Commons. If Parliament decided not to pass such legislation it would be in breach of the treaty. What primary legislation would it need to amend in order to avoid such an imposition?

Although the minister might be correct in saying that the legal arguments were different, the fact and industrial building, was it not also true that the primary legislation and the powers of imposition were also there for those matters?

Mr Lilley said that Mr Spearman was correct that the ruling raised constitutional issues, but not that it was unprecedented.

On an earlier occasion the British Parliament had been obliged by the Treaty of Rome and a court ruling to alter the balance of taxation between beer and wine and spirits.

TREASURY

Parliament was restricted in the laws that it could pass by the rules that it had agreed with Britain's partners in Europe.

Refusal to accept the ruling would infringe the Treaty of Accession and article 171 of the Treaty of Rome, which required Britain to adopt the judgements of the court.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C) said that if a British court made a ruling on VAT, Parliament had the power to change it. What power did Parliament have to make such a change in these circumstances?

Mr Lilley agreed that Parliament could overrule the decisions of British courts if it wished. Under European directives, Britain would have to obtain the consent of her partners in Europe to change this directive.

Mr Teddy Taylor (Southend East, C) said that the European Commission had found and taken advantage of this backdoor method to oblige Britain to impose VAT.

Would Britain be obliged to levy VAT on gas, electricity, water, sewerage, protective clothing and footwear for industry and new industrial building at a cost of £350 million if the European Court made a similar judgement on them in a few weeks time?

The Government gave constant assurances that Britain had a right of veto. That right lasted until 1992, and if by that time Britain had not agreed a harmonization method the Commission would be perfectly entitled to go to court and oblige this country to impose VAT because Britain had not fulfilled the conditions of the Single European Act.

Mr Lilley said that there was

no question of our freedom to impose zero rates being time-limited to 1992 or any other time. The judgement was not a backdoor method. It had been carried out in a perfectly formal, normal way.

There was no question of this ruling having a direct bearing on the entirely separate infringement case about zero rates on the goods and services that Mr Taylor had listed. The Government had fought that case vigorously. It was separate and distinct. It was based on separate arguments and it came under a separate part of the VAT directive.

Mr Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) said that this had been a test case which established the supremacy of European institutions over the sovereignty of Parliament or what was a sovereign Parliament. It was wrong of the minister to pretend that this was not a major judgement.

"The Government should be looking not merely at the Treaty of Accession but at the Treaty of Rome, under which we gave consent to join the European Communities, and identify there the amendments that might give us a remedy to external tax imposition."

Mr Lilley said that the powers exercised by the European Court should not have come as a surprise to Mr Shore, as he had warned the country about them during the referendum debate.

"Very fundamental changes, amounting to ending our membership of the European Community, would be required to exempt us from the powers of the European Court and other European institutions."

Mr Hugh Dykes (Harrow East, C) urged the minister to dismiss with contempt the hysteria of those MPs on both sides who remained opposed to Britain's membership of the EEC.

Mr Lilley said that he would not dismiss with contempt the views of MPs who had honourably opposed Britain's membership of the EEC and were free to do so. Some of the consequences of membership were displayed in the ruling.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Fyfe (Tiverton, C) congratulated Mr Lilley on quoting the precedent of the ruling on wine. The whole point of the Government's response to that ruling had been that, rather than increasing the tax on beer and cider, it had agreed a loss of revenue by cutting the tax on wine.

On that precedent, the Government should do away with any charges under the NHS for spectacles and testing.

Mr Lilley said that about a quarter of all spectacles dispensed went to people in receipt of vouchers, who would thus be unaffected by the ruling.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab) asked for an absolute assurance that there would not be, by any similar method, the imposition of VAT on books and newspapers.

Mr Lilley said that these were matters for the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr Robert Croyer (Bradford South, Lab) said that the only option open to the Government was to introduce legislation to repeal Section 2 of the European Communities Act, 1972, which placed on the United Kingdom the obligation of imposing additional VAT charges.

Mr Lilley said that Mr Croyer was probably right in pointing out the legislative route the Government would have to take to undo the ruling, but the particular directive was adopted unanimously by the member states of the European Community in 1977 and therefore was supported wholeheartedly by the Labour Government.

Mr William Cash (Stafford, C) said that it was the failure of the Labour Government to exercise its veto in 1977 which led to the directive being imposed.

Would the minister confirm that we have not the slightest intention of adopting the provision of the kind put by Lord Cockfield in the European Commission, which is unacceptable and unelected, and we have no intention of accepting it when it comes forward?

Mr Lilley said that the Government had no intention of accepting proposals which would deprive it of the right to retain zero rating.

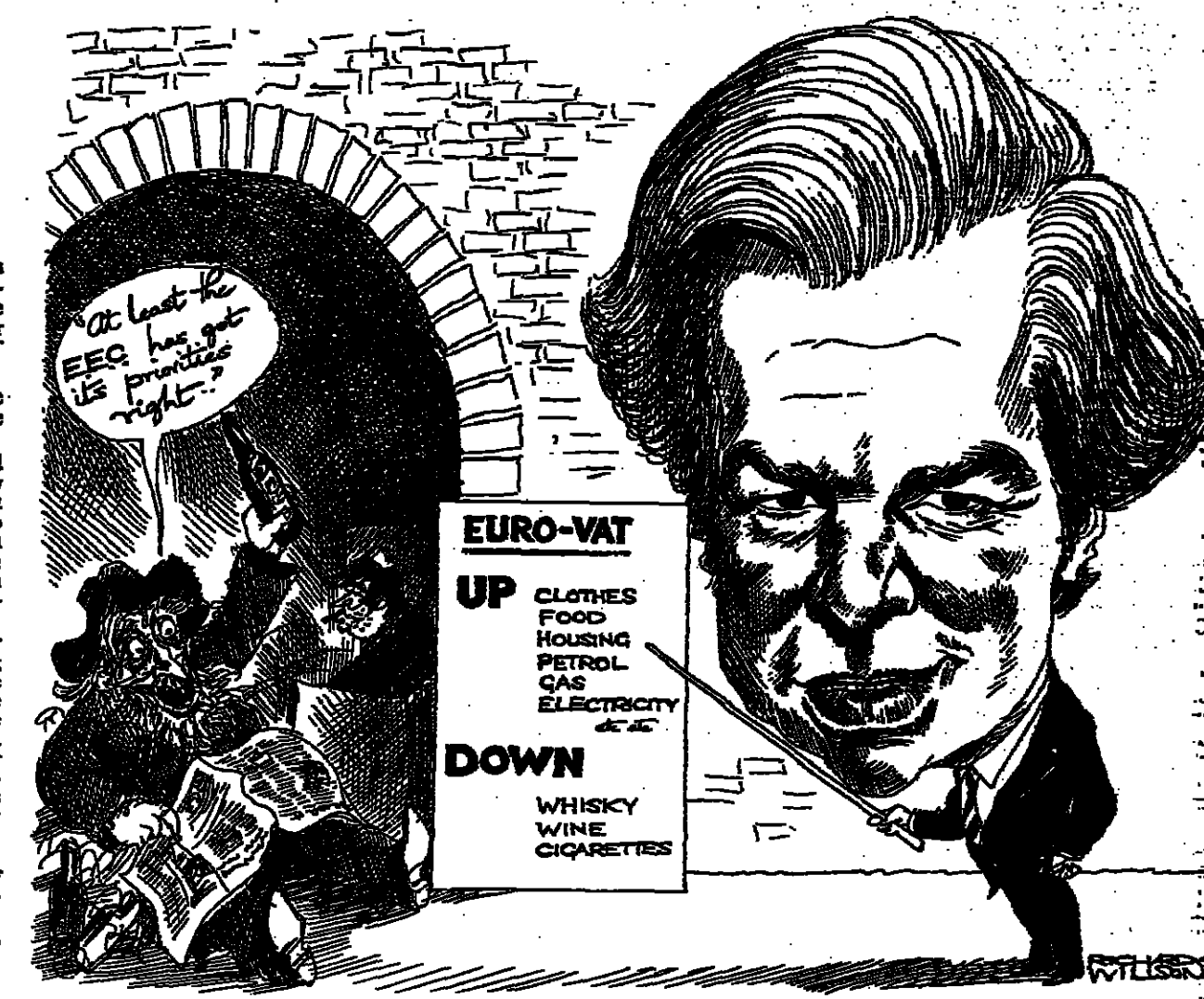
Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on economic affairs, said that the way out to supply spectacles free of charge, which would be laudable whatever the decision of the European Court.

The incident underlined the great importance of being careful what obligations were entered into. "Would the minister give an absolute guarantee to the House that the Government will veto all the proposals for VAT harmonization?"

Mr Lilley said that vouchers were available for all those on supplementary benefit, family income supplement, child benefit under 16, students under 19 in full-time study and the blind and partially sighted. "So there is no problem as far as they are concerned."

He was interested by Mr Smith's implied slur on the Labour Government, when he had pointed out the need to take great care in accepting obligations of this kind.

"It was a Cabinet, of which I believe, which entered into the obligations, the consequences of which we are now seeing. Is he saying that Cabinet did not take due care?"



Mr Peter Lilley, who insisted in the face of opposition that the Government intends to abide by the court judgement

Income and opportunity debate Jenkins urges caution

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government deserved credit for the shift away from high taxation, but even beneficial revolutions had a strong tendency to bring their own excesses, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (SDP), the former Mr Roy Jenkins, said in his maiden speech in the House of Lords.

Now there was a real danger of the widest range of about taxation, public expenditure and the duty of the state in relation to the distribution of rewards swinging much too far in the opposite direction.

He was speaking during a Labour-initiated debate on the developing disparities in opportunity and income and the case for policies to reduce divisions in the community.

He said: "A totally untrammelled distribution of rewards, with the state merely whipping on the contestants like promoters of a cockfight, will inevitably produce such excesses of disparity as to be both offensive and de-stabilising."

The former Labour cabinet minister added that he did not see any government trying to lead Britain back to marginal rates of taxation of 90 per cent or more.

If it were asked what was

under greater threat, consumer goods or the nexus of public services, then it would be difficult not to answer, the latter.

Opening the debate, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Labour peers, said large-scale transfers of population were not acceptable.

Britain today was divided within families, Mrs Thatcher, Mr Douglas Hurd (the Home Secretary) and others had spoken about their support for family life and he believed profoundly in its importance.

But certain aspects of Government policy divided and destroyed family life. He was not satisfied that the Government faced up to the widening gap in society and its consequences. Homelessness continued to rise and the lack of jobs, particularly in the North, was extremely serious.

Turning to the health service, he said that the solution was not extra private health insurance to help people to jump the queue but extra public funds to stop hospitals being compelled to send sick children home.

It would be a grave error and a monstrous wrong if the sick, the old and the poor were ignored in the forthcoming Budget in favour of tax cuts.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Nigel Lawson) should not seek short-term popularity by tax cuts but concentrate on the longer term and help to heal the divisions in society.

Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said that the Government was committed to encouraging a society in which wealth was created and also where wealth creation benefited all its citizens.

That offered equality of opportunity, and this Government was concerned to ensure that people were better off and all people continued to enjoy a rising standard of living and better health and education. It did not mean having a uniform society.

Ever since Adam and Eve there had been differences in society. Differences were not the same as divisions.

The Government recognized that society must provide for people's minimum needs.

Security Services proposal by MP

A private member's Bill giving Parliament increased power to scrutinize the work of the security services was introduced under the 10-minute rule procedure and formally read a first time.

Mr David Wainick (Walsell North, Lab), the Bill's sponsor, said that the time had come for there to be parliamentary accountability of the security services through a select committee. The security services "should no longer be a law unto themselves."

There had been intrusion into civil liberties, and files had been kept on people in the National Council for Civil Liberties and on members of the CND. The Special Branch had asked questions about the private lives of leading CND figures about who was living with whom.

The number of visitors at the Tate Gallery last year increased by 51 per cent, to 1,742,156, according to figures in a written reply by Mr Richard Lacey, Minister for the Arts. The largest attendance at the museums and galleries for which the minister is responsible was 4,732,784, at the Science Museum. That was slightly down on the previous year.

The British Museum also attracted more than four million visitors, while the National Gallery topped the art galleries' attendance registers with 3,566,568, which is 12 per cent more than in 1986. The figures do not include the British Museum of Natural History, for which figures are not yet available.

Steel sale statement
The Government does not expect to sell shares in British Steel before the end of this year at the earliest, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Trade and Industry, said on Tuesday night when moving the second reading of the British Steel Bill.

The second reading was carried by 280 votes to 219 - Government majority, 61.

Peers' jobs
Lord Stoddart of Swindon has stood down as the Opposition energy spokesman and a whip in the House of Lords because of ill health. Lady Nicol, deputy chief whip, will take over as energy spokesman and Lady Ewart-Biggs becomes a whip.

Power plan
A White Paper will be published soon about the Government's proposals to privatize the electricity industry, Mrs Theresa May, said during question time on Tuesday. She said that Scotland would be included in those proposals.

New member
Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls since 1982, took his seat in the House of Lords.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister; Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Acts 1978 and 1987 (Continuance) Order; Hampshire (Land Drainage) Bill, second reading; Lords (3): Copyright; Designs and Patents Bill, report, second day.

Earlier pay reports pledged

The Government has decided, in future years, to bring forward the timetable for review body reports so that decisions could be made on them well before the beginning of the financial year.

Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told MPs. This year, the reports and government decisions on them, are expected in April.

Mr Major was moving that the House should take note of the White Paper on Government expenditure plans for 1988-89 to 1990-91. He said that he understood and sympathized with the dilemma facing health authorities.

"We are not prepared to commit ourselves in advance to accepting review body recommendations unreservedly or to funding resulting awards in full. Nor should or would any Government."

"However what we can and will do is remove the uncertainty for health authorities in the future."

He hoped that the review bodies would be able to submit their reports in time for decisions on them by the end of January or, at the latest, by mid-February.

This new timetable would affect the reports of all review bodies. The Treasury select committee had been particularly concerned at the uncertainty faced by health authorities which had to plan their budgets before the review body recommendations were made final and consequent decisions on funding were known.

"We cannot at this late stage bring this year's reports on to this timetable, but we do propose to try to minimize the period of uncertainty."

Timetable changed

In particular, it would be difficult to press the Review Body for Nurses to hasten its report because this year it was considering important and complex issues, including a new clinical grading structure.

Measured in all sorts of ways the health service was not in the best of health, but was expanding, improving and becoming more efficient. Total spending on it had risen by 32 per cent more than inflation.

In considering whether there were other ways of delivering health care which met people's expectations, the Government proposed to preserve the principle that a high standard of health care must be available for all, regardless of means.

He said that the White Paper did not provide a new statement of policy. Many people had affected to be disappointed that it had not contained fresh expenditure plans.

It would have been extraordinary had it done so only weeks after Government plans were announced in the autumn statement.

In the survey of public expenditure published last year, the Government had added £4½ billion to the planned programme expenditure in 1988-89 and £6 billion in 1989-90 while, thanks to a growing economy, still reducing public spending as a proportion of national income.

Mr Lilley said that there was

the trouble is that they have

Labour defends day of protest

Labour MPs felt unanimously that the day of protest by health workers in Scotland was justified, Mr Donald Dewar, Opposition spokesman for Scotland, said at question time.

It had been caused by the obstinate insistence of the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr Malcolm Rifkind) on continued privatization and by the continued crisis over the funding of the health service.

The select committee on social services calculated that a 2 per cent increase in spending was necessary in order to stand still. Mr Rifkind himself had said that a 2 per cent increase was necessary, but even that figure was not to be reached. National Health Service.

Mr Rifkind said that he was glad it was now on record that Labour MPs were fully behind the disruption in the NHS.

Mr Neil Hamilton (Tatton, C) said that the plans were being cancelled because of a shortage of nurses but they would be cancelled because of this action by public-sector unions with their snouts in the trough of public money trying to

advance their privileges.

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn (Perth and Kinross, C) said that the day of protest had nothing to do with soul-baring by nurses but was a strike by Nupse, who were anxious to keep up their numbers and not willing to have competitive tendering.

Mr Ernest Ross (Dundee West, Lab) said that the reason why auxiliary workers and manufacturing workers were on the cobblestones was because of their serious concern for the NHS in Scotland. Why should a staff nurse earn £65 a week less than a policeman?

Mr Rifkind said that nurses' incomes had increased considerably under this Government while they had decreased under the last Labour Government.

Those health service workers who said that they were interested in the welfare of patients were going a strange way about showing it if their actions resulted in operations being cancelled and discomfort for patients.

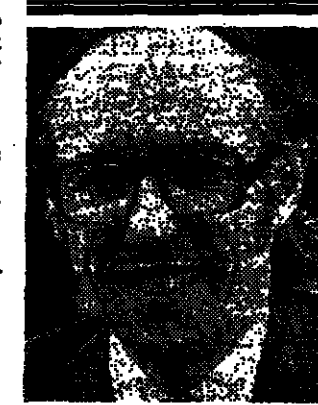
The hospital building programme in Scotland represents the biggest ever capital investment in the country.

Mr Dewar: Rifkind's "obstinate insistence"

being planned. By the end of 1992, a further 15 of those being planned would have been completed.

Later, Mr Ernest Ross said that it was not only health service workers, but those in manufacturing, mining, and the docks who were demonstrating against the Government's cynical refusal to fund nurses' pay fully.

HEALTH



Mr Dewar: Rifkind's "obstinate insistence"

ment in the National Health Service north of the border, Mr Michael Forsyth, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, said later.

The programme included 34 important developments, providing 4,484 new beds. Of those, 2 were being commissioned, 11 were being built and 21 were

being planned. By the end of 1992, a further 15 of those being planned would have been completed.

Mr Rifkind said that he was grateful for confirmation that those taking part included people with no direct connection with the health service.

Mr Norman Hogg, an Opposition spokesman on Scotland. The Secretary of State has no one else to blame for today's events but himself and the Under Secretary of State (Mr Michael Forsyth).

It has been brought about by trying to thrust alien doctrines on regional boards in Scotland.

Mr Rifkind: As competitive tendering in England has resulted in transferring £100 million to patient care, Mr Hogg has yet to explain why he should oppose comparable benefits for patients in Scotland.

land, said that the Scottish Office should come clean about the grotesque deployment of blanket tax incentives for blanket forest development to those who were often absentee landlords.

Mr Rifkind said that everyone wished to see a proper planting programme which would benefit the Scottish economy.

Fewer than half of all homes in Scotland were now rented from the public sector and the Government could justly claim that a Scottish success story, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, told MPs during questions in the Commons.

Sales were running at an extremely high level - 10.5 per cent of public-sector house stock had been sold since 1979 and about 107,000 public-sector tenants had bought their own homes. There had been about 39,000 applications to his department last year.

He was replying to Mr Eric Forth (Mid Worcestershire, C), who said that the excessively low level of council-house rents in Scotland was a disincentive to people considering buying.

Poll tax 'a gross blunder'

The poll tax was not just tactical blunder but an ill-thought-out, gross strategic error, Mr John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, said at a Press Gallery lunch at Westminster yesterday.

He saw it as one contribution to changing the public mood in about's favour. "People care about the quality, standards and priorities of the community."

Mr Smith said that the Labour Party was confident that next month's Budget would help to profit from a changing public mood.

There was already a new confidence on Labour's side of politics, not only because the party was "getting its act together" but also because the electorate would, he believed, seize the Labour Party in a more generous way than it had in recent elections.

Some of the gross unfairness of the present condition of the nation would no doubt be gravely by the Budget, when, said the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, should wipe out all the tax loopholes to see the burden on the ordinary taxpayer.

Mr Smith recommended Mr Lawson to make the National Health Service his top priority.

Unionists may break a little ice

It might help to ease the present difficulties in Northern Ireland if the Unionist Government in Dublin were to talk directly to the Irish Government in Dublin. The offer was made more fully and explicitly than before by Mr Charles Haughey in his speech over the weekend to Fianna Fail's annual conference.

"I would greatly wish", he declared, "to have an opportunity to hear at first hand from the representatives of the Unionist tradition how they would see peace, justice and equality for all brought about in Northern Ireland."

The initial response from the Unionists, or rather the public reaction to their initial response, suggested that they were effectively rejecting the idea of a direct dialogue with the Irish Government. A joint statement from Mr James Moynihan and Mr Ian Paisley began with the extravagant declaration that Unionists were not prepared to negotiate with anyone "until the gun of the Anglo-Irish agreement has been removed from their heads."

But the Unionist position is not, I believe, so negative as that would imply. A more accurate interpretation of a notorious and convoluted document would be that the Unionists would be prepared for some kind of discussion or process of communication with Dublin, provided that this did not give the impression of de facto acceptance of the agreement.

The trouble is that they have



Geoffrey Smith

said, all too often for their own good, that they would not negotiate unless the agreement was put on ice. What was intended as a threat has become a trap. It has made it all the easier for the British and Irish governments to disregard them.

This was implicitly recognized by the Unionist Task Force which reported to Mr Moynihan and Mr Paisley last summer. It recommended opening discussion with the British Government "without prejudice" to either side's position on the agreement. But the report was not accepted by the Unionist leaders.

It is not practical politics at this stage, however, to expect either government to put the

operation of the agreement into abeyance in response to Unionist pressure. So the only positive course now available to the Unionists, if they are not prepared to eat their own words, is to get into a dialogue without acknowledging that they are doing so.

For some weeks signals have been sent to and fro between the Irish Government and the Unionists indicating that both were interested in an exchange of ideas. Mr Haughey has been careful to use the term "totality of relationships" between Britain and the United Kingdom, while the Unionists is the critical phrase used.

What they, and some of their political supporters in Britain, have in mind is a new arrangement between the British and Irish governments to replace the controversial agreement. They would like this to cover every aspect of the Anglo-Irish relationship - economic, social, energy and agricultural policy, as well as Northern Ireland.

The idea of extending the Anglo-Irish dialogue in this way would be, in perfectly acceptable in principle, though there could be no question of giving the Irish Government the influence over British affairs to which it aspires in Northern Ireland. But there would be a difficulty.

World the present arrangements for Northern Ireland be left in place, or would they be

watered down? Dublin would be unlikely to accept an alternative agreement which diminished its influence in the North.

But equally the Unionists would see advantages in leaving the republic with the same capacity to exercise pressure over what happens in the North, while simply enlarging the range of the dialogue.

I would not be optimistic, therefore, about the prospects for any new agreement emerging from an exchange of views between the Irish Government and the Unionists. None the less, it would seem to me thoroughly desirable to start such a process.

One of the principal objections to the Anglo-Irish agreement is the way in which it has effectively excluded the majority community in Northern Ireland from any voice in the government of the province.

The British Government has responsibility for what happens there. The Irish Government has been given an institutionalized right to bring pressure to bear on the British Government. The SDLP is able to influence how the Irish Government exercises that right. Only the Unionists are left in the cold.

The more they can be brought back into the dialogue the better it will be for them and for the province as a whole. Effective government requires the consent of the majority as well as the minority.

Student battle

Big cuts

The Times unravels an academic saga that could soon involve the Queen

Student 'cheat' in a battle for his honour

● Francis Foecke (right) is brilliant. Or Francis Foecke is a cheat. Soon the Queen may be asked to decide: is Foecke a brilliant student who sat 13 papers at Bristol University and won first-class marks for them all?

● The university says no: he is a cheat who gained advance access to the examination papers. Their evidence: that his marks were too good. Foecke has spent £30,000 trying to prove them wrong. This is his story.

By Michael Horsnell

Allegations that a university student cheated during his degree finals could soon be drawn to the attention of the Queen.

Mr Francis Foecke, aged 30, an American student with a brilliant academic record, says that Bristol University has unjustly denied him a first-class honours degree in computer science with mathematics.

He is unemployed and surviving with the support of his wife, a primary school teacher, after spending more than £30,000 fighting allegations that he illicitly gained access to examination papers.

No evidence has been produced to show how he cheated. The university's case is that his marks, ranging from 70 to 90 per cent, were just too good.

Mr Foecke sat 13 papers, produced a thesis equivalent to two more, and obtained first-class marks for all. The university says he cheated in two of the papers and, despite the academic excellence of the rest, has refused him his honours degree. Instead, he will receive an ordinary BSc—deferred for five years from 1986, when he sat his finals.

Ironically, Mr Foecke could have left Bristol with an honours degree at Easter 1986, having already passed seven finals, the minimum requirement. None of those papers is disputed.

He was found guilty of cheating by a university tribunal and his appeal will be heard in private on March 2.

A prominent academic is to give expert evidence on his behalf and Mr Foecke also has the support of Mr William Waldegrave, the Minister for Housing and Planning and his constituency MP.

If the appeal fails, he plans to petition the Bristol University Visitor—the Queen. She could exercise her function as adjudicator through the Lord President of the Privy Council, who might then appoint a judge to hear the case.

Mr Foecke accuses the university of procedural defaults, which he says denied him natural justice. He says the university has:

- Acted as investigator, prosecutor and adjudicator, sometimes shifting the grounds of its allegations.
- Refused to inquire how he might have obtained access to examination material and produced no evidence to support the allegation.
- Failed to offer him a *viva voce* (oral examination) when this could have proved his guilt or innocence.
- Refused him an honours degree instead of deducting marks from, or discounting the two papers in contention, and refused to take into account the 11 papers not in contention. University regulations say that marks awarded in undisputed papers "shall be treated in the ordinary way for assessment of the candidate's overall performance".

It was on June 13 1986—four days before the publication of the pass list—that Mr Foecke received a letter from Mr P L Golding, assistant registrar, ordering him to appear before an investigation committee in Room G11 at the university's Senate House because he was suspected of dishonest conduct.

Mr Golding appointed Professor J C Shepherdson, chairman of the Board of Examiners, Dr G R Grimmett of the department of mathematics, and Professor R G Chambers, dean of the faculty of science, as an investigating committee.

Dr David Evans, head of the school of mathematics, had meanwhile asked 14 academics in his department to re-examine all Mr Foecke's

papers and report to Professor Shepherdson before the meeting on June 16. Their brief was to compare his examination answers with model answers to assess whether he might have had prior access to questions or solutions.

The investigating committee agreed there was no direct evidence that Mr Foecke had gained access to a filing cabinet in which examination material was stored under lock and key.

A master key to the mathematics building had been lost and the committee held that Mr Foecke could have gained access to the room of Dr John Walker, a senior member of the department, in which the cabinet stood. The key to the cabinet was kept in a locked cupboard in another room. Police inquiries also failed to find any evidence to implicate the student. No fingerprints were found, nor was a break-in, nor were any documents missing. Cleaners said they believed the missing key had been accidentally tipped out with the rubbish.

Mr Foecke told *The Times*: "They have never spelt out how they believe I could have gained access to the exam papers. I can only guess. They must believe that having got into the building, I then used the master key or another key to get through the locked door to the staircase to the upper floors. I then required keys to both Dr Walker's and his secretary's offices. I would then require knowledge of, and access to the key which opened the secretary's cabinet, which would have provided me with the key to the filing cabinet in Dr Walker's office. We must be talking of up to five keys. It's mind-boggling."

The committee accepted

taking twice as many papers as most other students was in order to give himself the greatest opportunity to eliminate his poor first and second-year results.

He was not represented at the initial investigative meeting. He was told that he had "not provided a reasonable explanation", and that a report would be made to the Board of Examiners confirming the charge of cheating.

His defence against the charge that in three questions he reproduced model answers—indeed reproduced errors contained in the models—is that these were available to all students in course material. He also said he had successfully predicted some of the questions, which had been set in identical form in previous years, notably in 1982, and produced evidence to support his contention.

Professor John Ashford, retiring professor of statistics at the University of Exeter, has agreed to give expert evidence after being approached by some of Mr Foecke's friends at Exeter.

Professor Ashford told *The Times*: "I have spoken to him at enormous length. My judgement is that he is not a cheat. His level of competence is such that he is of first-class calibre. A cheat normally goes away upon discovery to lick his wounds. I have seen all his scripts and the scripts of all the other students. The incidence of resemblance to model answers in Mr Foecke's papers is no higher than that of other students."

On June 17 1986, at a meeting of the Board of Examiners, a sub-panel of five academics was appointed to deal with the matter, including Professor Shepherdson and Dr Grimmett.

Candidate's Name: F. Foecke

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Faculty: Science

Year of Course: III Date: May 1986 (e.g. 1st, 2nd or 3rd etc.)

Title of Paper: Statistics II, PAPER II

Statistics II, paper I: one of the two examinations in dispute.

that the academics who reassessed Mr Foecke's papers had no complaints about 11 of the 13.

Mr Foecke told the inquiry that he had worked flat-out for a year in order to obtain a first, cramming hard for examinations partly from similar or identical problems in lecture notes. He denied having access to any exam papers.

He admitted his first and second-year results were poor, but says this was because of family pressures.

Dr Grimmett, the statistics examiner, led the university's "prosecution", pointing out that Mr Foecke had "made no false starts as might be expected" and couched some answers in the exact form of the model solution.

Allegations eventually centred on three answers to questions on two statistics papers.

The committee conceded that his undisputed thesis "scored highly" and that he was "a very industrious student". Its report noted that Mr Foecke's explanation for

On July 10 1986, that sub-panel met Mr Foecke and his solicitor at that time, Mr Jeremy Day, but refused to put its case in writing.

On October 2, the university delivered to Mr Foecke's solicitor a document entitled *The Case of Mr Foecke*, prepared by Dr Grimmett. This raised 15 new points about the student's examination answers not previously mentioned. It conceded that Dr J P Mayberry and Dr M D Gladstone, two of the academics who had reassessed the examination papers for signs of fraud, had found no such evidence. The names of other academics, whose views conflicted, were not disclosed.

Dr Eric Foxley, senior lecturer in the department of mathematics and computer science at Nottingham University, who had been called in by Professor Shepherdson to give his assessment, reported: "I saw nothing which could possibly be construed as evidence of other than legitimate performance by the student."

Dr Foxley recommended



that Mr Foecke should be set two special three-hour papers to test his ability. But this idea was ignored. Dr Foxley declined comment when contacted by *The Times*.

A tribunal of inquiry sat on October 9 and 10, 1986, at the university's Senate House and comprised the chairman, Dr Andrew Paterson, from the Bristol mathematics department, Professor Richard Dixon, professor of theoretical chemistry at Bristol, and Professor Robin Sibson of the mathematics department at Bath University.

The tribunal heard evidence from Dr Grimmett and from Mr Foecke, who was represented by his solicitor, and Mr R Field, his barrister.

Dr Paterson reported afterwards: "We conclude that a breach of examination regulations has taken place, in that Mr Foecke has, beyond reasonable doubt, employed knowledge of the examiners' solutions which could not have been honestly obtained."

"We have not considered it to have been within our remit to have considered how this might have taken place."

Mr Foecke's lawyers later protested, to no avail, that further, new allegations had been raised at the tribunal which required the student's immediate response. They said the tribunal's decision on the three examination answers on which Mr Foecke was convicted were largely based on those fresh allegations. On December 9 1986, Mr Foecke was told his punishment.

The National Union of Students has contributed £10,000 to his fight and is offering £2,000 more towards the appeal.

Mr Foecke said: "The burden of proof has always been on me. I feel as if I am in a box which I cannot fight my way out of. I am shell-shocked but continuing the fight is a question of honour. I cannot allow this slur to hang over me for the rest of my life. The pressures are enormous."

Mr William Waldegrave, Conservative MP for Bristol West, who has taken up Mr Foecke's case, said: "No one has provided any evidence as to how he has cheated, but I am told there is nothing for it but to go through the whole university system first."

"What convinced me of his innocence was the thesis work, for which he got an alpha mark. No one can say he isn't clever enough."

Bristol University refused yesterday to comment on the merits of the case or outline the allegations against Mr Foecke.

Mr Don Carleton, its information officer, whom mathematics department staff agreed should handle all inquiries, said: "The university is concerned only with fairness in the case and whether the examination was properly conducted."

"Mr Foecke was advised of his right of appeal, which he has exercised. If he should lose it, he will then have a further appeal to the Visitor. It has been agreed by the university that no members of the university will comment on the merits of the case until it is concluded. It is considered in the interests of the appellant not to discuss these matters."



Fighting to clear his name: Mr Francis Foecke with his wife Priscilla, outside Bristol University (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

THE MAKING OF THE STUDENT WHO WAS JUST TOO GOOD

Francis Foecke has always shown remarkable academic prowess. Before he went to primary school in America, he delighted his parents with extraordinary mathematical ability.

His father, Dr Harold Foecke, a former dean of the engineering faculty at Gonzaga University, Washington, said from his home in Paris yesterday: "He is an extremely intelligent, hard-working young man. When he was four, he was able to multiply two-digit numbers in his head. We knew then that he had a special gift."

Dr Foecke, aged 61, a retired deputy assistant director general for education with Unesco, said: "I am proud of the fight he is putting up, and of his wife for her support. It has cost them a great deal."

Francis, born in South Bend, Indiana, went to Paris at the age of 10 with his six

brothers and sisters when his father joined Unesco.

It was at the Lycée International in Paris, an *avant garde* state school which attracts the academic elite and supports special sections for foreign nationals, that he made his name as a brilliant student.

A pupil in the American section, he obtained the best bilingual international baccalaureate pass of 1976, one point ahead of Priscilla Wood, the girl who headed the British section, whom he married two years later.

His achievement was four passes at higher level—in mathematics, English, French and physics—the first three at the equivalent of grade A in GCE A level, when only three passes were required. At the same time he obtained three high passes at subsidiary level, worth slightly more than O level.

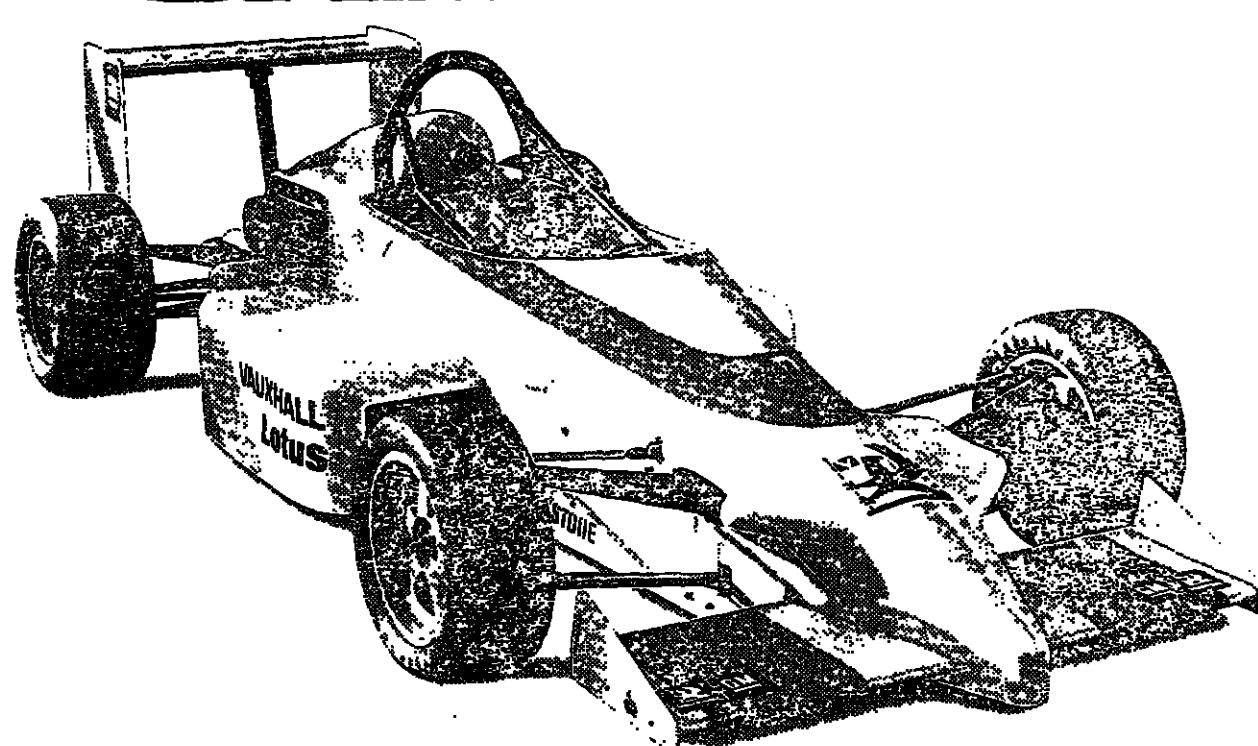
"It was part of my make-up to want to take seven subjects instead of six, just as it was to sit twice as many finals papers as I needed", he said.

A telegram verifying Mr Foecke's academic ability and integrity was sent by M Edgar Scherer, headmaster of the Lycée International, and Mme Nancy Magaud, head of the school's American section, to Bristol for submission to the student's appeal hearing when they heard of his plight.

Mme Magaud told *The Times*: "It seems so unreasonable to us that Mr Foecke has been charged with cheating."

"His academic ability was outstandingly high and he is of the soundest character. He was highly regarded by staff and students alike, and left such a deep impression that the headmaster remembers him well despite the passage of time."

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THE VAUXHALL-LOTUS CHALLENGE.

Big cuts sought in London car traffic

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The right to take cars into central London during the working day should be restricted to certain groups who would have to pay to do so, it is proposed in a report on traffic congestion published yesterday.

The restriction could reduce the amount of car and van traffic in central London by about two-thirds, although it would almost rule out commuting by private car, the report says.

It adds that although the Department of Transport controls all aspects of London transport, responsibility is divided between ministers. It calls for a single minister for transport in London.

Among the groups which the report suggests should be allowed to use cars in central London are residents, the disabled, doctors, traders with vans carrying equipment and others such as members of the Royal Family, MPs and those who need to use a car rather than public transport for security reasons.

The report says the benefits of limiting traffic in central London would be felt as far as the M25 by reducing the amount of traffic heading towards the centre. Public transport should be improved to provide a satisfactory alternative for increased numbers of passengers. In particular, the car in congestion could pave the way for better bus services.

The report, *A Case for Traffic Restriction in London*, by Stephen Plowden, is published by the London Centre for Transport Planning, which is financed by the London boroughs and has links with the Civic Trust. It says it has long been recognized that transport and environmental problems cannot be solved without deliberate restraint.

Mr Plowden says: "Only a small proportion of journeys to or within central London are made by car, and each car driven there imposes heavy costs on other road users."

If all the 166,000 people entering

central London by car during the morning peak were to transfer to public transport, the number of public transport passengers would increase by 18 per cent. Some would transfer to bus, especially with an improvement in services resulting from eased conditions.

Mr Plowden says the roads could easily accommodate any increase in bus traffic. In 1961, 117,000 more people entered central London by bus during the morning peak than in 1986.

The report acknowledges that a policy of car restraint could face capacity limitations on the Underground and British Rail. However, it says the cost of removing the limitations is unlikely to be high "in relation to the sum of money available for transport investment in London".

A Case for Traffic Restriction in London, by Stephen Plowden (London Centre for Transport Planning, 3 Stamford Street, SE1; £5.48).

Epson's compleat office companion.

Twenty things you need to know to become more effective immediately.

1. The compleat office.

As a general rule, the higher you rise in an organisation, the tidier your office should be.

When starting out, it is wise to plaster your walls with urgent-sounding reminders such as 'Ring N. @ 10.05 (N.B. a precise time) for monthly figures on LQ850/1050', impressive phone numbers (e.g. Whitehall, the BBC, anywhere abroad) and letters praising your efforts (make these up if necessary).

As you progress, however, this clutter may be seen as a sign of inefficiency rather than industry. Surely you should have acquired the power to delegate most of your work?

This point was made most strongly by Lew Wasserman, the head of MCA records. Late every evening, he would visit all the offices and throw any loose paperwork into the bin. "If you can't get it done before you leave," he told his executives, "you can't be doing it right."

2. The compleat filing system.

The papers in your filing cabinets should never be thrown out under any circumstances.

They may take up a lot of space, but it is a cast-iron certainty that if you ever discard them — even if you have not consulted them for ages — you will need them the very next day.

The film producer Samuel Goldwyn realised this. His secretary once asked him whether she could destroy the files that were more than ten years old. "Sure," he said, "but keep copies."

3. The compleat telephone.

Every office will have one of these — but not everyone realises that the telephone is intended to prevent communication rather than aid it.

Together with a secretary armed with all the stock phrases (e.g. he's just stepped out, he's in a meeting, he's on the other line), it can render you virtually uncontactable.

However, if a call does ever get through to you, the most important thing to remember is that you can still be heard swearing when you put your hand over the mouthpiece.

When you want to pass on or find out information yourself, it is obviously useless to use the phone. Easily the quickest ways to pass on news are to tell the receptionist or switchboard operator in complete confidence and to leave a 'top secret' memo on the office photocopier.

To find anything out, pay a visit to the appropriate person's office and casually read everything on the desk upside-down.

4. The compleat memo-writer.

Like the telephone, the office memorandum is the subject of widespread misconceptions. It may occasionally be used simply to pass on information, it is true, but more often than not it is a political tool.

You can use it to avoid taking real action. Circulating a long memo will usually create a long enough delay for the crucial moment to pass — and you will still be seen to have done something.

By securing a memo from a superior before a risky course of action, you can safeguard your rear if things do go wrong.

Finally, it can be used for self-promotion. If someone else in the office solves a problem, a memo from you to the top brass stating that 'all is now well' will make them assume that you solved it. And if a rival makes a blunder, a memo offering help (with a copy sent upstairs) will make him look even worse while you appear sympathetic.

5. The compleat business letter.

Your main aim when writing business letters should be to keep them as short as possible. This will not only save you time, but also improve the chances of your letter being read and acted upon.

Follow the example of the French general who sent this message to a courtesan in Paris: "Où? Quand? Combien?" He soon received the reply: "Chez moi. Ce soir. Rien." — and duly did the business.

6. The compleat business-speak.

While brevity and clarity are virtues to be cultivated, it is nevertheless a fact of office life that you will need a good grasp of 'business-speak' to survive.

This is a form of language in which the meaning is considerably different from what is actually said. Often it is the exact opposite. You will soon get the idea from the following examples.

'There is a body of opinion against this.'	— I disagree.
'I am unable to agree in this instance.'	— I agree.
'A full and frank exchange of ideas.'	— A punch-up.
'We performed to expectations.'	— We had a disastrous year.
'We had a disastrous year.'	— Actually we had a good year, but if we say so everyone will want a rise.
'Things are on the up and up.'	— They couldn't get worse.
'You deserve a fresh challenge.'	— You're fired.

7. The compleat office jargon.

Regrettably, there are a number of perverted individuals in the business world for whom even 'business-speak' is too straightforward. They do not meet people, they 'interface with human resources'. They do not serve customers, they 'implement end-user satisfaction procedures'.

The only way to deal with such people is to outdo them with jargon of your own. This can be concocted very easily by using the Functional Verbal Obscurity chart below. Simply take a word from each column, put them together and Bob's your progenitor's fraternal relation:

1	2	3
Optimum	Person-orientated	Scenario
Modular	Quantitative	Framework
Ongoing	Reciprocal	Contingency
Integrated	Corporate	Concept
Total	Multiphasic	Function

8. The compleat office statistics.

The final area of business language to master is statistics. Apart from impressing the jargon junkies, they can be used to back up any arguments and proposals you like. They can be adjusted and selected to create any impression — and you can even invent your own. As long as you throw in a couple of decimal places and keep a straight face, no one will be any the wiser.

You can also use statistics to cover up bad news or blunders. Since they are not read by at least 91% of people 82.6% of the time, and 87.4% of the other 9% do not understand them anyway, you can admit to anything without it being noticed.

9. The compleat tyrant and how to deal with him.

The organisation of many offices is rather like a septic tank — the really big chunks rise to the top.

If your boss is overbearing, however, there are two things you can do. The first is to get another job and then take revenge on your last day, as one chairman's assistant once did.

He had written all his superior's speeches for years without ever receiving the slightest acknowledgement for his excellent efforts. During his last week, yet another speech was demanded of him for a meeting of computer experts. The address he came up with went down very well for the first five minutes — until the chairman turned the page to find the words: "FROM NOW ON YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, YOU OLD B*****D."

The second option is to get yourself promoted above your oppressor. A Spanish bank clerk once managed to do this, and he took immediate revenge on his ex-manager by demoting him to office-boy and making him copy out the local phone book by hand.

10. The compleat guide to promotion.

First tip: To get on these days, it isn't what you know or even who you know that counts — it's usually what you know about who you know.

Second tip: Be nice to the M.D.'s secretary and get on first-name terms with the security guard downstairs. The respect of both carries enormous influence.

Third tip: Look busier than you really are. Leave notes on people's desks during the lunch hour. Or try getting into work ten minutes early, throwing papers around your office, making yourself look scruffy and putting a sleeping bag in the corner. No one will doubt that you've been there all night.

Fourth tip: Read the next three sections.

11. The compleat office dress.

If your office clothes are way-out, the chances are that you will soon be on your way out.

Stick to something plain and conventional, preferably a two-piece suit. Three-piece suits are still acceptable for men, but three-piece suits tend to be rather bulky in the arms and seat.

If your company actually has dress regulations, do not be tempted to make a mockery of them. When Edgar Allan Poe was at West Point, the instructions for a public parade called for 'white belts and gloves, under arms'. He took this literally and appeared carrying his rifle, wearing belt and gloves — and nothing else. He was expelled.

12. The compleat lift user.

This is not a list of do's and don'ts so much as a list of don'ts.

1. Don't look at anyone — they will feel threatened. Stare at the floor numbers like everybody else.

2. Don't talk to anyone — this is ten times worse than No. 1.

3. Don't you-know-what. (But if you can't help it, glare accusingly at someone else.)

4. Don't use the lift after a liquid lunch, as you will probably get in with the chairman. If you have also had a curry, the odds are 10-1 on that the lift will get stuck for three hours.

13. The compleat excuses for lateness.

No one can help being late occasionally — but if you are going to make a habit of it, vary your excuses.

Make sure that you can remember how many fake dental appointments and grandparent's funerals you are supposed to have been to — and bear in mind that if you tell the boss you had a flat battery, the next day you will have a flat battery.

Do not adopt the 'I couldn't care less' attitude of one persistent offender who was met by his irate boss as he wandered in at 11.30 one morning. "You should have been here at nine!" thundered his superior. "Why, what happened?" asked the latecomer.

The next day, he had a real appointment with the dentist.

14. The compleat rise negotiator.

If promotion is out of the question, try for a rise instead. Here, the basic rule is: never be afraid to ask.

In the 1950s, Tommy Docherty played alongside Tom Finney for Preston North End. Both received the maximum wage of £15 a week during the football season, but in the summer Docherty used to get £2 less than the great man. Docherty complained to the manager that this was unfair. "But you're not as good a player as Finney," he was told. "I am during the summer," replied the Doc. He got his rise.

15. The compleat job title.

If all else fails, improve your job title. After all, 'administrative communications executive' sounds far grander than 'post clerk'.

Letters after your name can also help — though if you are a B.A., beware of jealous non-graduates who may add R.M.Y. when you are not looking. You could always make up your own professional qualifications, but avoid obvious mistakes such as Practitioner in Research and Advanced Technology.

Incidentally, it is highly prestigious to be known in the office by your initials alone — though Val Doonican and Tony Blackburn may disagree.

16. The compleat business meeting.

Meetings are easily the biggest waste of time in office life — but there are ways in which you can turn them to your advantage if you can stay awake long enough.

By keeping the minutes (or as they should be called, 'hours'), you can make sure that you look good on the official record.

By taking the chair, you can see to it that you always get your own way. You can push through your own proposals by phrasing the vote in a particular way, e.g. "All those against, raise your hands and say, 'I resign!'"

And if anyone suggests a scheme you do not like, simply point out that the same idea was once proposed by someone who was sacked in disgrace some years ago. You will kill it stone-dead.

17. The compleat business traveller.

Another drawback with office jobs is that the workers are generally in the same situation as a sledge-dog team — only the lead dog ever gets a change of scenery.

Every opportunity to get out of the office should therefore be seized with alacrity, whether it is a conference in Australia or paper-clip buying down the road.

Equipment failure is always a good excuse. Try claiming that you are going to complain about a hot drinks vending machine which is actually dispensing what people ask for and is therefore spoiling everyone's fun.

The biggest advantage of business travel, of course, is that you can claim for expenses.

18. The compleat expenses sheet.

Rule 1: Never let your expense account come to a total divisible by 5 or 10 — it will never be believed.

Rule 2: Be specific on small items and vague on the large ones. Describe in depth the purchase of a box of staples, but quietly slip in 'dinner for all staff'.

Rule 3: Check that the other four people in the taxi are not all going to claim the fare.

Rule 4: Get your sums right. After a trip to Canada in 1921, the American journalist Gene Fowler submitted a long and spurious claim for \$1200, including the purchase of a team of huskies and even funeral expenses incurred after one dog had supposedly died. The claim was rejected — not because it was false, but because it did not quite balance. Fowler was not beaten, however. "Oh, I forgot," he said. "Flowers for bereaved bitch, \$1.50."

19. The compleat decision-maker.

If you wish to avoid making a decision, either send a memo (see again section 4) or set up a committee to conduct an 'in-depth study'.

If you actually want to make a decision, toss a coin. Yes, seriously. When the coin is in the air, you will realise how you want it to land and the decision will be made. (If you then find yourself saying, "Er — best of three ...", that is the clincher.)

20. The compleat computer.

The decision to buy a computer for the office is straightforward enough. After all, they make the place look very smart and up-to-date, quite apart from making it operate more efficiently.

Deciding which PC to buy has always been more difficult — but even this has now been made simple by the introduction of the Epson PCs.

The PCe is a complete computing package which provides you with everything you need to start running all the leading business software immediately. It includes a mono screen, an AT-style keyboard and even ready-fitted plugs to cut out the slightest delay. It is remarkably easy to use, though you can always keep that quiet if you want to look really clever in the office.

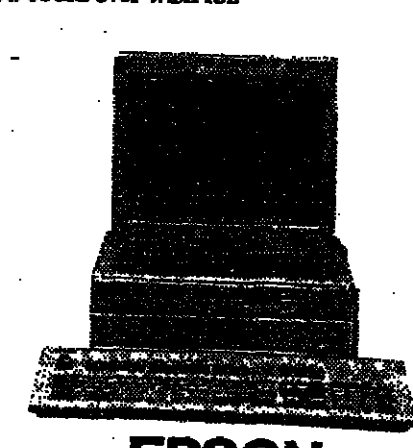
Mentioning that it has speeds of 10 and 4.77MHz, 20Mb of hard disk storage, a 640K RAM, 5 expansion slots and compatibility with the industry standard will doubtless impress the jargon-lovers — and if they actually understand all that, they will be even more impressed.

Meanwhile, the financial director will be pleased with the price of the PCe (£1199 RRP exc. VAT), bearing in mind that it comes from such a reliable name as Epson.

In fact, the biggest drawback of the PCe is that you will never be able to use its breakdown as an excuse to leave the office (as suggested in section 17).

For more information, either: write to Epson (U.K.) Limited, Freeport, Birmingham B37 5BR; call up Prestel 2280; or ring 0800 289622 free of charge.

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EPSON

Kremlin acts to subdue nationalist protests

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Four senior Kremlin trouble-shooters have been sent to the two southern Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan to quell one of the most serious outbreaks of nationalist street unrest since Mr Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in March, 1985.

Despite an official clamp-down on information about the protests, reliable sources in the Armenian capital of Yerevan said that the street demonstrations there were continuing yesterday, for the fifth day in succession.

Official Soviet sources have placed the number of demonstrators at about 25,000, but local residents contacted by telephone put the numbers at more than twice that figure.

Western reporters have been unable to reach the area, as 48 hours' notice has to be given to the Foreign Ministry for travel beyond a 25-mile radius of Moscow.

The rule was also used yesterday to prevent Western correspondents travelling north to Estonia, where nationalist demonstrations planned to coincide with the 70th anniversary of its independence in 1918 had been banned by the authorities.

The two incidents hundreds of miles apart have brought home the severe problems of nationalism now causing growing concern in the Kremlin and which have prompted Mr Gorbachev to summon a plenary session of the Central Committee.

The street protests in Armenia were provoked by mainly Christian Armenians calling for the return to their republic of the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region which became part of the predomi-

nantly Muslim neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan after the 1917 Revolution.

In the region, leaflets began to appear on February 11 followed by mass demonstrations and strikes in schools and colleges. Deputies in the regional soviet voted to consider the change in territorial status, but their vote was ruled illegal.

A report in *Izvestia* — cited yesterday by Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Kremlin's chief spokesman, who signalled Moscow's concern at the situation — said that two members of the Politburo, Mr Pyotr Demichev and Mr Georgy Razumovsky, had been sent by Moscow to the troubled area. They carried a Central Committee order calling for an end to the demonstrations.

Mr Razumovsky explained the Central Committee's decision in Moscow to reject the request for territorial change which provoked less serious disturbances last year.

According to local sources two other top officials, Mr Vladimir Dolgikh and Mr Anatoly Lukyanov, members of the Central Committee secretariat, arrived in Yerevan with similar orders to calm the situation.

Nagorno-Karabakh, whose population is more than 90 per cent Armenian, became part of Soviet Azerbaijan after the Russian Civil War.

The coincidental banning of yesterday's request for a nationalist demonstration in the Estonian capital of Tallinn was further evidence of the nationalist sentiment facing the authorities in all three Baltic republics — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Last week the official daily *Sovietskaya Estonia* published an unusual appeal by 48 prominent Estonians calling for calm on the anniversary which marked the 1918 independence declaration by a non-Communist national council.

It revealed that there had already been clashes between demonstrators and police in Tartu, the republic's second city, on February 2.

Many conservatives inside the Communist Party have blamed Mr Gorbachev's liberalization programme for the upsurge in nationalist protests.



Mr Gerasimov: Signalled Moscow worry at unrest.

40 years of communism

Bitter Czechs still hope for change

From Richard Bassett, Prague

In the Klement Gottwald Museum, time stands still for the epic class struggle between proletariat and bourgeoisie. Underneath countless red flags, photographs in the most empty museum in Prague depict images of the capitalist class enemy; from racing at Ascot to the gamut facade of the building ominously labelled the Anglo-Czechoslovak Bank.

Forty years ago today the Czechoslovak Communist leader, Klement Gottwald, banished such images, setting power with widespread popular support. Tens of thousands of Czechoslovaks took to the streets to welcome the party which had not only resisted the Nazis but had also, through the Red Army, been the first to liberate the country from German occupation.

Although in the official rubric 1948 was the "final defeat of the bourgeois reactionary forces", for most Czechoslovaks, weary of frequent government crises, communism seemed the obvious step for their country to take. It was a step which was soon regretted, however, especially by tens of thousands of political opponents who were rounded up or, if lucky, forced to flee.

The hope that the Communists, who had experienced Prague's prewar democratic government, would preserve the framework of democracy soon evaporated in the waves of arrests which swept over Czechoslovakia as Stalinism tightened its grip on the country.

Not surprisingly, this "highest phase of the class struggle in modern Czechoslovak history", to use the official terms, leaves a bitter taste to a disillusioned people whose only answer to such outdated rhetoric is apathy and cynicism.

The banners and the slogans which fill every shop window in Prague, like the Klement Gottwald Museum, have a weary familiarity which merit not even a glance from most Czechoslovaks. Yesterday's ceremony at Hradcany Castle, overlooking Prague,

and the special address of the Czechoslovak leader, Mr Milos Jakes, will also do little to dissipate this cynicism.

Mr Jakes will be eagerly watched to see whether, within the framework of this obsolete rhetoric, he can strike any new note. Even hardened dissidents admit that this year the "atmosphere is very different".

The enigmatic Mr Jakes, who since his elevation to party leader last December has gone out of his way to talk cautiously of the need for "restructuring" along Soviet lines, still remains a long way from reforming what for 20 years has been the least flexible of Moscow's allies in Eastern Europe.

Hopes run high that he will take the opportunity today to depart from traditional speeches when he addresses the Czechoslovak people from the same square where, 40 years ago, Gottwald made his historic speech.

Unlike his predecessor, Mr Gustav Husak, Mr Jakes is aware of the need to introduce reforms, especially on the economic front.

Latest reports indicate that while enjoying by East European standards a prosperous economy free of any Western debts, the Czechoslovak economy is no longer growing as rapidly as in recent years.

Czechoslovakia has always potentially been the most prosperous of the East European economies, but to revitalize it after years of inertia requires drastic change.

Recent calls in the official press for "greater freedom of the individual" and more private enterprise are only the beginning of cautious movement in this direction.

Mr Jakes knows that this and other reforms will be the only way for his country to realize its economic potential and move out of the deadlock which has embraced it since 1968, when Mr Alexander Dubcek's ill-fated Prague Spring was crushed by a Warsaw Pact invasion. He may well use today's anniversary to speed up the process. Leading article, page 15

Three killed as car bomb rocks Beirut



Lebanese Army soldiers guarding the wreckage of a taxi in Muslim West Beirut yesterday after the vehicle was devastated by a powerful car bomb which killed three people. The taxi driver, his woman passenger and a worker in a nearby shop died in the blast, the first car bomb in the Lebanese capital this year (Our Foreign Staff writes). At least 60 people were killed by car bombs in the country last year. Three other people were also injured in yesterday's explosion outside the American Life Insurance Company and Greek Embassy premises. "Our car had just passed the taxi and we were only a few metres ahead when the explosion shook

the area," a Syrian plainclothes security man said. Syrian and Lebanese soldiers sealed off the area, firing into the air as ambulances sped to the scene. About 7,000 Syrian troops were deployed in the Muslim sector a year ago to quell militia violence. In a separate development, Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, yesterday was quoted as saying that Tehran would be willing to help secure the release of Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, an American Marine officer kidnapped in southern Lebanon by Muslim fundamentalists a week ago. According to Lebanese newspapers, Mr Velayati said that Iran could play a

mediating role exclusively on "humanitarian" grounds provided it was asked to do so. Mr Velayati was speaking in Jakarta, where he held talks with Indonesian officials, but his words appeared to be directed towards Damascus. The kidnapping, beginning to harm Syrian interests in Lebanon, intensifying a long-brewing power struggle for the allegiance of Shia Muslims in the country between Amal, the Syrian ally, and Shia fundamentalists supported by Iran. What makes the relationship between Amal and the fundamentalists a mercurial one is that Syria and Iran, are trying to outsmart each other in Lebanon.

Khrushchev in Soviet gallery of heroes again

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The late Nikita Khrushchev, the ebullient Kremlin leader deposed in 1964, made a dramatic return from the realm of Soviet "non-people" yesterday when the weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta* devoted a full page to publishing the first political portrait to appear here since his demise.

Although many of the details were familiar to Westerners, they are now being keenly devoured by Soviet readers, for whom Khrushchev's name has till recently been taboo.

The article was seen as having pointers for the career of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, whose sweeping attempts at reform of the Soviet system have led some of his political enemies (and even some well-wishers) to predict that he could eventually suffer the same fate and be overthrown.

The author, Mr Fyodor Burlatsky, who worked closely under Khrushchev as a speechwriter, said that the former leader "was a man with a sharp natural political sense, brave and active, but he gave in to the temptation of allowing praise for his own personality ... sycophants drowned him in a sea of flattery and eulogy, winning in return high posts, the highest

awards, prizes and ranks".

The new account said that officials around Khrushchev fed him false stories that liberal cultural figures were slandering him to provoke the 1963 crackdown on the arts, and that they themselves suggested splitting the ruling Communist Party into two wings.

Many academics believe that it was this division of the party into urban and rural branches that boosted opposition to him even among supporters of his reforms.

Khrushchev was, said Mr Burlatsky, "frequently a plaything of his self-seeking advisers or his secret enemies who were preparing his downfall".

Although the portrait literally painted the ex-leader wars and all (it recounted that he had two on his broad face), it left no doubt that its formerly disgraced subject was its hero and a man of considerable courage.

According to Mr Burlatsky, now regarded as one of those intellectuals favoured by Mr Gorbachev, Khrushchev risked his life by delivering the famous 1956 speech in which he denounced the crimes of Stalin.



TAMIL TIGER, JAFFNA, SRI LANKA.



CONTRA FIGHTER, NICARAGUA.

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Afghan rebel groups agree on a post-Soviet regime

From Michael Hamlyn, Islamabad

The seven quarrelsome factions of the Afghan resistance have finally got their act together sufficiently to agree on proposals for an interim government after a Russian withdrawal.

It was, however, a close run thing, with last-minute changes still being phoned to newspapers after the press release detailing the proposals had been issued. "It was a very difficult negotiation," one of the group's officials in Islamabad said last night.

The agreement coincides with the presence in Pakistan of Mr Michael Armacost, the US Under-Secretary of State, who yesterday spent most of the day in conference with officials of the Pakistan Foreign Ministry before meeting Mr Muhammad Khan Junjo, the Prime Minister.

Mr Armacost flies today to Lahore for a meeting with President Zia ul-Haq.

One of the principal points of disagreement among the Afghan Mujahidin had been the extent to which members of the present Government in Kabul should be allowed to participate in an interim government. It was agreed that, while the Mujahidin groups should have 14 members in a 28-man Cabinet with

Plea to tribe on Briton

Peshawar — The Pakistan Government has asked leaders of the Waziri tribe in the North-West Frontier Province to hold tribal meetings to find the missing Briton, Mr Geoffrey Langlands (Edward Gorman writes). Mr Langlands, Principal of Razmak Cadet College for Boys in North Waziristan, was kidnapped on Saturday while driving to Peshawar. Yesterday Mr Khalid Sahibzada, an official in the province, said the request was normal after kidnappings in the lawless tribal areas.

Yunus Khalis that either formulation purposely excluded all members of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. "They cannot be Muslims, they are Communists," he said.

However, it does not exclude non-PDP members who are at present part of the Kabul Government.

Mujahidin proposals envisage the establishment of a transitional government "with which to ensure a ceasefire and the peaceful

transition to law and order, to permit the safe and complete withdrawal of Soviet forces, the return of the refugees with honour, and ensure general elections consistent with Islamic law within six months after the withdrawal of Soviet forces".

Structures proposed include

constitution by an elected constituent assembly.

The Mujahidin alliance insists that the Geneva accords should be signed by this interim government and that it should undertake full responsibility for their implementation.

American sources last night welcomed the Mujahidin formulation as "at least a step in the right direction".

The proximity talks between Kabul and the Pakistan Government are due to begin again in Geneva under United Nations auspices next week. It is widely expected that this will be the last session, although there are still outstanding questions to be settled. The next question of the time frame for a Russian withdrawal has yet to be agreed, but now only two months separates the two sides.

The Pakistan Government still appears unsure about committing itself to an accord without an interim government acceptable to the refugees in place. The visit of Mr Armacost is widely thought to be aimed at bringing some reassurance on this point.

A Pakistan government spokesman last night also welcomed the Mujahidin proposals as "a positive step".

Kabul 'executing political prisoners'

From Edward Gorman Peshawar

The Afghan Government has begun a programme of systematic executions of political prisoners in Kabul's notorious Pul-e-Charkhi prison, according to resistance and diplomatic sources here.

Information received by the political office of Jamiat-i-Islami, a fundamentalist faction of the Mujahidin resistance, indicates that the executions began on February 9, the day after Mr Mikhail Gorbachev announced that he was prepared to withdraw Soviet troops from

Afghanistan, provided that an agreement is reached at the Geneva talks.

A Jamiat commander based in Logar province, Dr Fazlullah, said in a radio transmission received in Peshawar that 20 to 30 prisoners were being shot daily.

Western diplomats in Islamabad told of two independent accounts of executions at the prison. In the more detailed account, a relative of two of the alleged victims said that between 20 and 24 Mujahidin were executed at Pul-e-Charkhi on February 13. The second

report claims that relatives who had been allowed regular access to prisoners have now been told that their relatives are not now at the prison. They fear that the prisoners have been executed.

Dr Najib Lafraie, the head of Jamiat's political committee, said: "I am personally very sceptical that the Russians are leaving Afghanistan, but if they really are going then perhaps they are trying to get rid of those who might cause problems for them in the future." He said that all the victims were political prisoners.

Rioting on eve of Roh takeover

From Gavin Bell Seoul

Drivers abandoned their cars and pedestrians fled in panic here yesterday during a two-hour battle between thousands of students and riot police on the eve of the inauguration of Mr Roh Tae Woo as South Korean President.

Firebombs hurled into the street from an American cultural centre exploded as a motorcade bearing Mr Takeshita Noboru, the Prime Minister of Japan, here to attend the inauguration ceremony, drove by. The cars were not damaged.

Protests against Mr Roh's election flared into violence for the second successive day when several thousand students attempted to march from Myongdong cathedral to demonstrate in a central plaza.

Squads of combat police intervened, and in a matter of minutes the narrow streets around the cathedral were swept by stones, petrol bombs and tear gas.

Motorists caught in evening rush-hour traffic were forced to leave their cars, and pedestrians fled as the fighting raged on.

Meanwhile, about a dozen students rampaged through the nearby offices of the United States Information Service, chanting anti-American slogans, smashing windows and hurling firebombs into the street below. Two exploded as Mr Takeshita's motorcade was driving past.

Police entered the building after about an hour and arrested the demonstrators without further incident, but the occupation was acutely embarrassing for security forces assigned to protect American interests.

The violence has cast a shadow over what is being billed as the first peaceful transfer of power in the constitutional history of South Korea. Mr Roh's pledges to end four decades of authoritarian rule by implementing democratic reforms has signally failed to impress a small but



South Korea's outgoing President, Mr Chun Doo Hwan, drinking a farewell toast in Seoul.

determined body of dissidents.

The clashes came as Mr Chun Doo Hwan, the outgoing President, was assuring an audience of 1,000 invited guests that political and social chaos was at an end.

In a valedictory address in a city centre hotel, Mr Chun said he was departing with a sense of fulfilment, and likened himself to "a farmer tending the flower garden of democracy". Referring to his accession in

1980, he said: "This happened in accordance with an unavoidable course of events, which might be called the current of history or the dictate of the times." It might also be called a military coup, according to his critics.

However, all this was in the past. "Now is the time for me to leave the stage of history... to return to a simple life."

He will do so in style today, if the city council has anything to do with it. An official said it

planned to "mobilize" 100,000 citizens to cheer Mr Chun as he makes his way from the presidential palace to his new home in western Seoul.

On the eve of Mr Roh's inauguration, when he will take the oath of office in the garden of the National Assembly, will be attended by 250 envoys from 88 countries (AFP reports).

He said Mr Chun will ride together from the Blue House to the National Assembly under tight security.

'People power' anniversary Protests as Aquino triumph turns sour

From Humphrey Hawksley, Manila

Effigies of President Aquino were set alight here yesterday as thousands demonstrated against plans to mark the second anniversary tomorrow of the "people power" revolt that swept her to office.

The protesters, most of them members of militant labour and student groups and estimated by police to number about 10,000, accused the Aquino administration of being pro-American.

But most of President Aquino's enemies will look on today as she presides over the anniversary celebrations.

A few who coaxed the reluctant widow into office two years ago are still with her, but most sons and daughters of the revolution have fallen. Left-wing trade union leaders, like Mr Lean Alejandro and Mr Rolando Olalia, who

friends, Colonel Eduardo Kapunan and Navy Captain Rex Robles, were implicated in the assassination 15 months ago of the left-wing trade union leader, Mr Olalia. They deny the charges, which were as much as anything part of a political move by the authorities to break the back of this once-powerful faction within the military.

"We have been decimated. We have been scattered by the wayside," said their eloquent spokesman, Captain Robles, who was once the centre of attention on Manila's diplomatic dinner party circuit, fated because many believed that he and his friends might soon be the new leaders of the country.

Captain Robles added lamely: "But soon we will unite again." He knew, though, that this was an empty promise. The "Ram boys", as they were known, are no longer a threat to Mrs Aquino.

● Moderation and mediocrity have won the day ●

called the crowds to stand in front of Ferdinand Marcos's tanks in 1986, are dead, murdered by right-wing assassins.

The more moderate left-leaning politicians, like the loyal Aquino family friend and human rights lawyer, Mr Joker Arroyo, have been sacked from the Cabinet.

On the right, the brilliant Harvard-educated Finance Minister, Mr Jaime Ongpin, was also sent packing and a few months later shot himself dead in his office. His family said that he was depressed and embittered about the course of the "people power" revolution.

What has emerged is not an administration of brilliance and ideology, but one which works without bickering. "Moderation and mediocrity have won the day," said one political commentator. "But perhaps that is what the Philippines needs."

Perhaps the most certain sign of the new-found stability of Mrs Aquino's Government came on Monday evening at a Mass at St Ignace Chapel in Camp Aguinaldo, the national military headquarters. It was held "in honour" of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (Ran) — young officers who became national heroes when they led the rebellion against Mr Marcos.

But, unhappy with the new democracy, they rebelled again in an attempt to topple President Aquino. Their leader, Colonel Gregorio Honason, is in jail. Others are under arrest or in hiding. None was at the Mass.

Colonel Honason led the bloody coup attempt against President Aquino last August, and spoke about his vision of fighting for the Filipino people and their children. The vision, in as far as it was ever defined, was that the military should have a role in government.

The cost of destroying the military threat was high. President Aquino had to abandon her natural bias towards the protection of human rights, which with bitter memories of her family's experience under Marcos's martial law, was a personal issue as well as a campaign platform.

She has had to satisfy military demands in order to stay in office. The former Chief of Staff, General Fidel Ramos, is her new Defence Minister. To all extents and purposes, the military does have a role in government, as Colonel Honason demanded, and Mrs Aquino is no longer a leader of peace. She has told the military to "go out and fight" the new enemy — the communist insurgents.

There are likely to be no immediate winners or losers in the guerrilla war. Military analysts hold little faith in

● To say things are worse than under Marcos is rubbish ●

armed forces, and unlike the heady days of revolution in Vietnam and Nicaragua the communist powers such as the Soviet Union and China seem reluctant to get involved.

The obvious criticism from both sides of the Philippine political spectrum is that life is worse now than under Mr Marcos. The left cites human rights abuses. The remnants of the right, at a drinks party in Captain Robles's house on Monday after the Mass, grumbled about the communist threat. But they were thin on details and, running out of argument, went on to complain about pot-holes in the roads.

"Let's look at this in black and white," said one local analyst. "To say things are worse than under Marcos is rubbish. The Philippines is better off under Mrs Aquino."

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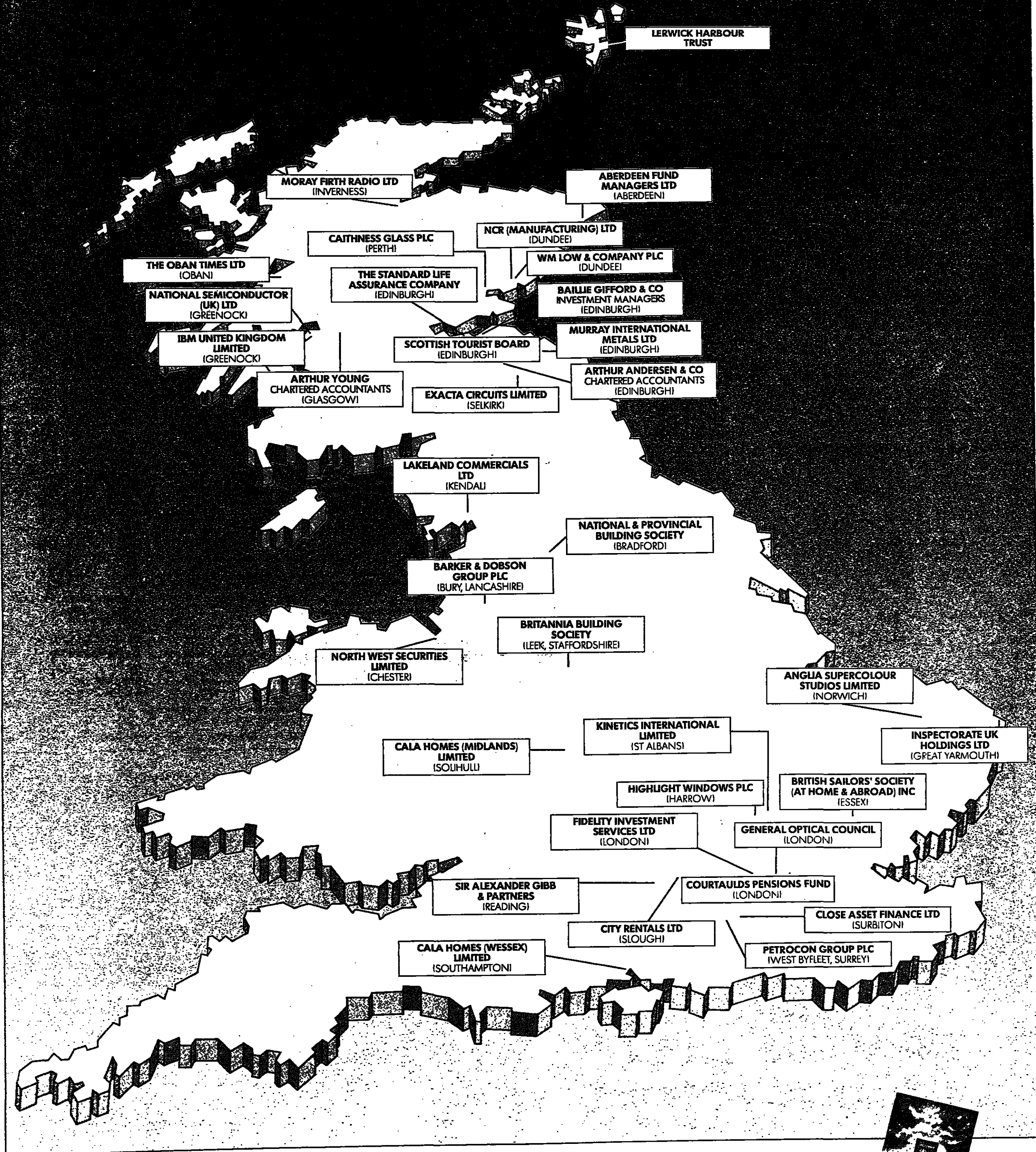
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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE *Score 1 each*

1 Who or what was a centaur?
2 In which county is Lizard?
3 What part of the body is affected by gingivitis?
4 Who wrote "The Italian Symphony"?
5 Who invented the jet engine?

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Cut out your answers and keep this coupon until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons printed in *The Times*.

PUZZLES

Answer 1 Answer 2

Answer 3 Answer 4

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Answer 1
Answer 2
Answer 3
Answer 4 Answer 5

NAME

THE TIMES PROFILE

MANFRED WÖRNER

controversial short-range tactical missiles. Unlike his colleague in the foreign ministry, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who wants these weapons to be thrown into the arms control pot as soon as possible, Wörner is against reducing the short-range arsenal while the Soviet conventional superiority remains. His solidly conservative attitude towards this increasingly prickly issue within Nato no doubt endeared him to Mrs Thatcher and helped to win the British Government's endorsement of his candidacy.

Wörner, who was born 53 years ago into a middle-class family in Stuttgart, is a survivor. In fact his accession to "the ejector seat" in 1982 was particularly appropriate, since he happens to be a reserve officer with the Luftwaffe: Lt-Col Wörner of the Federal Armed Forces Reserve has clocked up 1,500 flying hours as an experienced jet pilot.

Back in the 1960s, the former West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger said of Wörner: "That boy is going somewhere. After studying law at Heidelberg, Paris and Munich, taking his doctorate with a dissertation on 'Criminal Jurisdiction Over Troops in Friendly Territory', he began his professional career as a civil servant in the interior administration of the state of Baden-Württemberg. For two years he worked as a parliamentary adviser in the state legislature in Stuttgart. He had joined the Christian Democratic Union party

in 1956 and nine years later became the youngest member of parliament when he won a direct mandate to the Bundestag.

In those days he was known by some of his older colleagues as the "young rebel". With his slim physique and passion for sports, especially sailing, hiking and skiing, plus his fluency in English and French, he cut quite an impressive figure in the Bundestag.

By the 1970s, his political interests focused more and more on security and defence policy. He gained a reputation as a defence expert and it came as little surprise when, in 1982, the newly-elected Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, appointed him defence minister.

Although his subsequent career has endorsed Kiesinger's prediction, Wörner has never been seen as a potential Chancellor. For one thing, he is a Protestant and comes from the state of Baden-Württemberg, in the south-west. In the German political system, it matters where you come from and how many others have made it from the same area. Unfortunately for Wörner, Bonn already has its quota of prominent politicians from his home state, including the Speaker of the Bundestag.

But there are other reasons. People who know him well and like him have to admit that he is not a great personality. "He appeals to the military," one German insider commented, "but he is not the kind of man you would automatically want to sit down with and have a glass of wine or beer."

Despite this rather sombre assessment of his character, Wörner has undoubtedly shone as defence minister. He likes the job and is popular with the military. He is often pictured, for example, dressed in combat jacket and military cap; Helmut Schmidt, when he was defence minister, would not have been seen dead in anything but his homburg hat. Wörner has won a good deal for the German forces, with improved pay and excellent fringe benefits. He has made their life easier.

Although Genscher has always carried greater influence in Cabinet on arms control strategy, Wörner has successfully fought his corner on other important defence questions. He is a committed European and in the mid-1980s, together with Michael Heseltine, then British Defence Secretary, he battled for a European Fighter Aircraft, overturning previous plans for a Franco-German plane. He foresaw that an aircraft

built by Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain (the countries who have joined the EFA programme) would be more in Europe's interest.

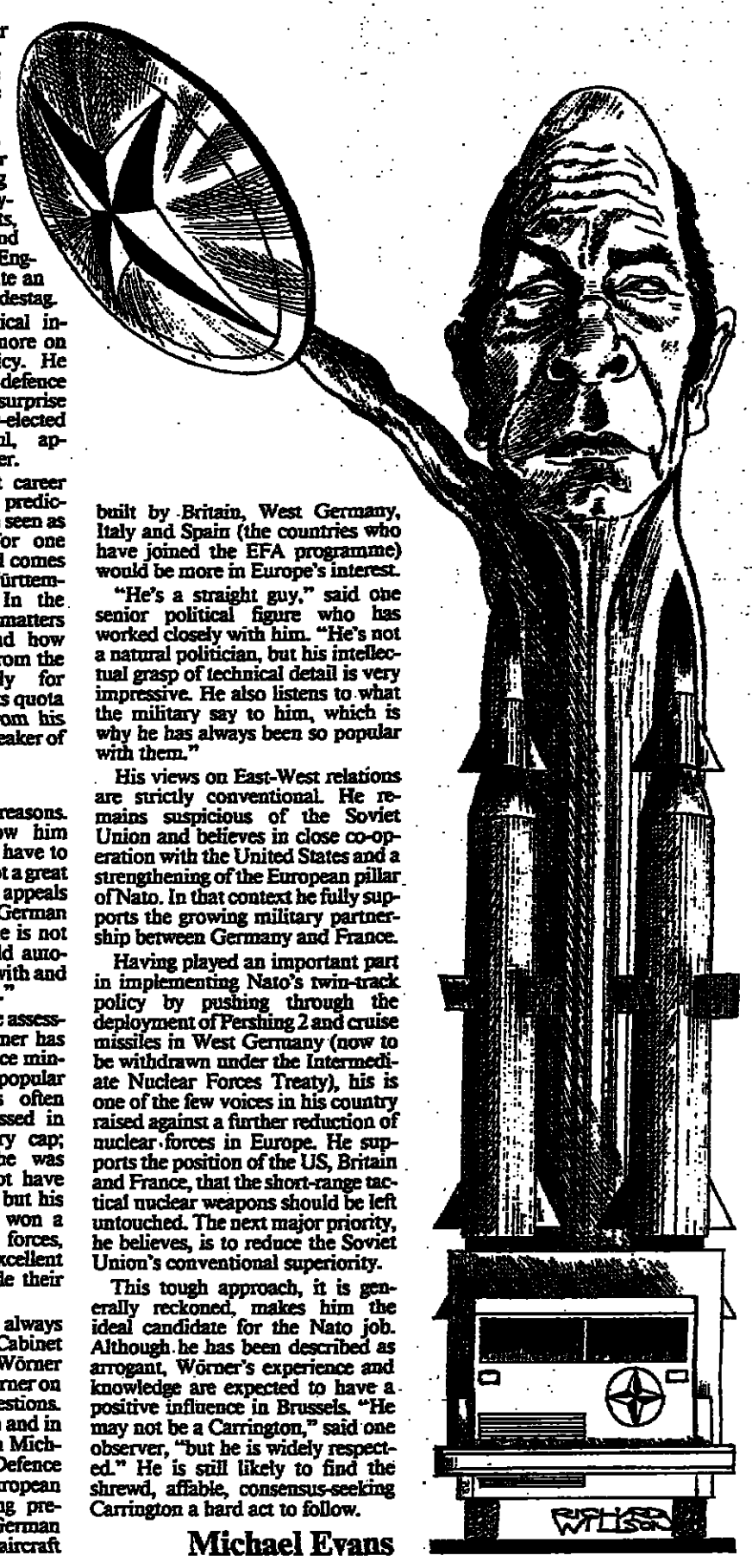
"He's a straight guy," said one senior political figure who has worked closely with him. "He's not a natural politician, but his intellectual grasp of technical detail is very impressive. He also listens to what the military say to him, which is why he has always been so popular with them."

His views on East-West relations are strictly conventional. He remains suspicious of the Soviet Union and believes in close co-operation with the United States and a strengthening of the European pillar of Nato. In that context he fully supports the growing military partnership between Germany and France.

Having played an important part in implementing Nato's twin-track policy by pushing through the deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in West Germany (now to be withdrawn under the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty), his is one of the few voices in his country raised against a further reduction of nuclear forces in Europe. He supports the position of the US, Britain and France, that the short-range tactical nuclear weapons should be left untouched. The next major priority, he believes, is to reduce the Soviet Union's conventional superiority.

This tough approach, it is generally reckoned, makes him the ideal candidate for the Nato job. Although he has been described as arrogant, Wörner's experience and knowledge are expected to have a positive influence in Brussels. "He may not be a Carrington," said one observer, "but he is widely respected." He is still likely to find the shrewd, affable, consensus-seeking Carrington a hard act to follow.

Michael Evans



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A peg for the renaissance?

artfile

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

A weekly look at the art world

What is a 45-foot high clothes peg doing stuck down a subway entrance at a Philadelphia station? It is obeying the law laid down in 21 states of America that 1 per cent of the budget of all new buildings is spent on art. In Philadelphia, the city fathers chose the great Pop artist, Claes Oldenburg, and although applause has been anything but universal, at least it has tickled the imaginations of the estimated 35,000 people who pass by each day.

Think of our equivalent urban centres: the obligatory shopping mall, with its Body and Richard shops interrupted at intervals by advertisement billboards. This form of urban gloom reaches its nadir with the Birmingham Bull Ring, where Brummies pursue their favourite hobby: shopping.

Now, Birmingham is about to spawn a renaissance. The largest local authority in the country, it has been persuaded by campaigners such as Michael Diamond, the director of the Birmingham City Art Gallery, and Vivien Lovell, of the Public Art Commissions Agency (a charitable trust), to follow in Philadelphia's footsteps. One per cent of the capital cost of the Birmingham Convention Centre — situated off Broad Street, and to be the new home of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra when it opens in 1991 — will be spent on art.

That means a total budget of £800,000, of which £275,000 will go towards one sculpture of an animated crowd scene by Raymond Mason, in the centre's square.

Birmingham-born, but exiled in Paris, Mason's creation will be nearly twice life-size and comprise up to 30 local figures, including car workers, an Asian family, and figures from the city's past.

Elsewhere in the centre will be a kinetic sculpture made from neon lights by Ron Hazeldorn and colourful paving by Tess Jarry. Now the council has 1 per cent on the agenda for the proposed new Bull Ring project, just announced.

Birmingham is not alone in its pursuit of urban art. A conference starts tomorrow in Edinburgh on the subject of Artists and Architecture, with speakers including Lord St John of Fawley, Mark Fisher, shadow spokesman on the arts, and Antony Gormley, the sculptor, tackling the question: "Can a case be made for '1 per cent art', or should art be left to the market?"

Next Tuesday, the Arts Council itself decides whether to spearhead a campaign to encourage the entire country to adopt "1 per cent for art". There is a more-than-odds-on chance that an Elizabethan renaissance is about to begin.

The first people to be tackled should be the property developers. Whereas during the Italian Renaissance patronage was a straightforward matter of glory to God and/or the men who held the purse-strings, now it offers a more subtle challenge of enlivening the environment in which people live and work.

If "1 per cent" were to be adopted, the opportunity to alter British attitudes to art — shored up with associations with "Tate bricks" — would be immense.

Expenditure on art-in-architecture need have nothing to do with philanthropy, as the Americans have discovered: "It ploughs dollars back into the economy," says the Dallas task force, which administers the city's 1 per cent for art scheme.

Art, says the task force, adds to the value of a given building, and "contributes to the package of pluses" which — JR and Sue Ellen aside — gives the city its appeal to oilmen and tourists alike. The financial advantages are obvious: a Henry Moore sculpture shored up with associations with "Tate bricks" — would be immense.

Re-birth in Brum: one of Raymond Mason's drawings for a square in Birmingham's '1 per cent for art' project

Rory Coonan of the Arts Council believes the financiers must remain in control of the money, unlike France, which has had a 1 per cent scheme for 25 years. "That country has a generation of 'per cent for art' artists, and what sometimes results is deadeningly repetitious, acceptable civic art. We don't want to commission bland art like that."

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1498

ACROSS

1 Arm (6)
4 Stagnant situation (6)
9 Towards ocean (7)
10 Thin porridge (5)
11 Long cut (4)
12 Book support (7)
14 Foolish, stupid (11)
16 Pull towards (7)
19 Gentle (4)
22 Further (5)
24 Central spirit (7)
25 Bulk livestock feed (6)
26 Secluded (6)

DOWN

1 Sea perch (4)
2 Fourth Turkish town (5)
3 Latin American dance (5-3-3)
5 Chasing game (3)
6 Crash (7)
7 Fracture support (6)
8 Mein Kampf author (5,6)
11 Intestine (3)
13 Rumanian president (9)
15 Harassed (7)
16 Insecticide (1,1,1,1)
17 Bribe (3,3)
20 The end (5)
21 Repair (4)
23 Whisky grain (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1497

ACROSS 1 Transac 5 Speed 9 Hinder 10 Elder 11 Posit
12 Draps 13 Horus 15 Brat 16 Tense 18 Ochre 20 Brinc
21 Muldoon 23 NEDC 24 Embolism
DOWN 1 Tabard 2 Abu Dhabi 3 Sod 4 Chrysanthemum
6 Hide 7 Dures 8 Acrobate 11 Petrol 14 Ring road 15 Bobbin
17 Tannin 19 Mild 22 Liao



BARRY GREENWOOD

When Andrew Tallis was just a toddler sitting in a supermarket trolley, he asked a friend of his mother's who was pushing him round, what all that stuff in the freezer was. Thinking his mother would want him to be given an honest answer, the friend said it was chopped-up dead pig and dead chickens and that's what people ate. Andrew, who is now eight years old, has been a strict vegetarian ever since.

"I tried to coax him out of it at first," says his mother, Mary Tallis, 28, a student at Manchester Polytechnic. "Then I believed it was something that would pass, but when he was three I worried about his fingers, because all children liked those, and he point-blank refused to eat any. Then he started to ask me what was in any packet or tinned food I bought. When he learned to read at five he checked them himself.

A Gallup survey conducted at the end of last year on behalf of the Realeat Company which makes veggie burgers and veggie bangers showed that one-third of this country's 4.3 million non-meat eaters are now children under 16. And a survey to be published next week by the Vegetarian Society indicates that because of pressure from students, 95 per cent of British universities, colleges and polytechnics are now providing

"We discovered that certain dis-

The Vegetarian Society is currently

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But far more troubling to the British nurses were other factors; among these was the fact that their status was that of doctors' lackeys, arguably one reason why the Americans themselves are leaving the profession. "English nurses make a lot more decisions

Fiona Tuner, a 25-year-old midwife, found that she could not deliver babies — that was the work of the Brotman's obstetricians. "That is the prize at the end of the hard work, so it's frustrating not to do it," she says. The fear that binds the American system is


Louette Harding
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The Birmingham police, like police officers everywhere, pride themselves on a phlegmatic approach to life. But last week, one of their inspectors was prepared to admit to the pride he felt in his three-year-old daughter's achievements. Esther, the daughter whom he had just visited, went to Hungary on January 9 as part of the latest group of children with cerebral palsy or spina bifida, who were to be educated at the Peto Institute. In the weeks Esther has been in Budapest, she has discarded her restraining

In the same party as Esther were 10 trainee teachers from Birmingham who hope that, in time, the Peto method can be established in this country. The immense amount of Anglo-Hungarian goodwill which has been engendered by the Peto institute, particularly after the television films Standing Up For Joe and To the Victor the Losers Go, is slightly eroded as Doctor Mari Hári, the institute's director, her colleagues and, not least, the Hungarian Press are aggrieved that two British institutions have recruited two of the Peto staff. The Hungarians imply that they expected rather better from the British and view the incident as a breach of manners, rather as a harassed housewife would regard an erstwhile friend who has poached her children's nanny.

Helping hands

Gloves are now being worn by doctors and dentists to protect them from infected blood or other human fluids. In the United States, there has been a craze particularly among dentists – for gloves which taste of peppermint, or something else delectable. But in Britain, the emphasis has been on their functional quality. Recent work carried out by the Medical Research Council has shown that latex is very much stronger than polythene. An unexpected finding has been that latex has an anti-viral property which has a marked inhibitory effect on the infectivity of the Aids virus. The research, published in the *British Journal of Surgery*, suggests that the seamless latex gloves should be recommended for all health workers who might come in contact with HIV (the Aids virus).



Next week
Christopher
 Otu, the Mill-
 field and Cam-
 bridge Univer-
 sity wing three-
 quarter, be-
 comes the first black person to
 play Rugby Football Union for Eng-
 land since Danieus Peters was
 fly half more than 80 years
 ago. Nigerian-born Otu dis-
 located his right knee 18
 months ago, and it seemed
 that he might have ruined the
 chance of a future inter-
 national career, but fortu-
 nately he had torn his
 posterior cruciate ligament
 rather than the anterior cru-
 ciate. These are the two liga-
 ments which keep the leg bone
 and the thigh in apposition
 and in line. Although the
 posterior ligament is enor-
 mously strong, more than 90
 per cent of people who tear it
 are able to return to full
 activity, provided that they
 build up their thigh muscle,

the quadriceps, with physiotherapy. One had a six-month intensive course of exercises so that today, although he has no functioning posterior cruciate ligament, his knee joint is as strong as it ever was. Destruction of the anterior cruciate has a much worse prognosis and more than 75 per cent of patients who have had the injury fail to re-establish a stable joint.

In these cases, the usual British view is that surgery should not be undertaken unless the results of conservative treatment with physiotherapy have been evaluated. When surgery is resorted to, the choice lies between using a natural material, a substitute ligament, or an artificial substance; although carbon fibre has been abandoned, polyester/carbon fibre is used, but many surgeons are waiting to see what happens to these artificial ligaments over the next few years before they commit their reputations, and their patients' knee joints, to its use.

Bobby dazzler

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straps, learnt to sit upright in a chair without any aids, and can now stretch over the table in front of her to play with her toys or Plasticine. She is also out of nappies.

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TIMES DIARY SHERIDAN MORLEY

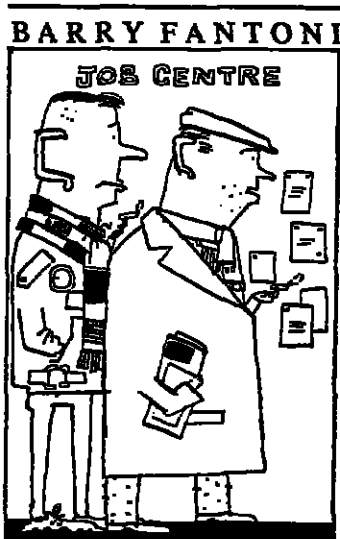
The announcement that spectacles are now to be VAT-surcharged gives me one more reason to delay having my eyes tested. Admittedly an increasingly shortsighted drama critic may have vocational problems, though the late W.A. Darington was deaf for years and used to have the plot of *Hamlet* shouted at him through a hearing aid. On the other hand, there is a lot to be said for not seeing too clearly: it is widely believed that John Julius Norwich used actually to cover his eyes with his hands when being driven around London by his mother Lady Diana Cooper, until finally, after she had demolished several traffic lights, he felt the urge to speak. "Mother, I can no longer bear this." "Bear what, dear?" "Mother, your driving." "Am I dear? I thought you were."

Driving across Turville Heath to have a drink with John Mortimer, it occurs to me that because (like him) I have lived virtually the whole of my life within five miles of Henley-on-Thames, I now tend to regard all his non-Rumpole work purely in terms of how well they have teleported the area where it is set. Olivier's classic performance as the blind lawyer in *A Voyage Round My Father* therefore became for me a matter of how good it was to see John's family orchard on the screen; *Paradise Postponed* led to much local discussion, not of its rare and still underrated brilliance as an anatomy of Thatcherite Britain, but of whether Henley Bridge looked better when filmed from the Wargrave or the Remenham side.

Meanwhile, John and I have, for the last three years, been engaged on a marathon battle to save Henley's 55-year-old cinema from being bulldozed to make way for an enlarged Waitrose supermarket. When we started the campaign, one soon joined by such splendid supporters as the journalist Valerie Grove and a local ex-Beattie, George Harrison, we were told, even by several wives and friends, that in the end a cinema would always lose out to a supermarket: such was the nature of civic progress.

But the local paper, and hundreds of Henley citizens, rallied to our Regal flag. Three years and several street petitions later, the cinema stands boarded and empty, although we are still managing to hold off the bulldozers. In the end we may lose, but a major supermarket chain will at least have been taught that in such matters you cannot ignore the feelings of the local community.

I am just beginning to learn some of the problems of being a diarist. Being a drama critic is, by comparison, simple enough: you go to the theatre, they do the play, you write down what you think of it. Diarists seem to lead altogether more complex lives - look at John Aubrey or Nigel Dempster - and I have taken to carrying a pen and paper, or at least the backs of old envelopes, around with me all day in the hope that someone somewhere might tell me something of remote public interest. The trouble is that they only ever tell you things that (a) they then say you can't print, or (b) everyone else already knows.



And then there are the letters: diary columns seem to urge readers to write to the postbox, but never for obvious reasons. Over the past month I have written about Californian telephones, American electoral opinion polls, the greatness of Gielgud, the utter impossibility of Australia, the paintings of Noel Coward, the evils of the current gay-bashing legislation, and assorted other topics. The one thing readers apparently wish to discuss is the wart on my right eye, which I am happy to tell you dropped off the night before I had to make that appearance at the Oscar Academy in Los Angeles, and now means that I can appear free of all damned spots on the podium of the Smithsonian in Washington the week after next.

I am, however, especially indebted to Mr Edward Chaplin of Lower Addison Gardens in London, who tells me that during the First World War he successfully got all the warts off his foot with a saline mixture and then sharp rubbing with a caustic stick every night. Apparently the warts go black and fall off of their own accord. Never say this column is not extremely useful in any emergency.

The news that Anthony Smith is to be President of Magdalen College, Oxford, is hugely encouraging, since given his background as a distinguished head of the British Film Institute it presumably means that Oxford is at last waking up to the desirability of film and maybe even theatre studies. In my undergraduate time there, a quarter of a century ago, plays and films were things that had to be rehearsed and shot over weekends or in spare non-tutorial moments, a mistake never made by Yale or Harvard, where the drama schools are among the best in the world. Over here, Bristol and Manchester and East Anglia learnt years ago of the importance of drama as part of the university curriculum, and the sooner Smith starts regular Magdalen seminars in Film Studies, the better for all his students.

Michael Hornsby on the reasons for the latest Pretoria crackdown

Botha's pre-election blitz

of a minority of malecontents and agitators who intimidate the silent, supportive majority.

The timing of the latest crackdown may be explained by by-elections on March 2 in two rural constituencies in the Transvaal, where Botha's National Party is trying to regain former strongholds lost to the extreme right-wing Conservative Party at the white general election on May 6 of last year. That some such consideration may have been uppermost in Botha's mind is also indicated by recent submissions at South Africa's black-ruled neighbour, and in the case of Angola rather more than that.

Although the Conservative Party won only 22 of the 166 directly-elected seats in the white House of Assembly last May, it won 26 per cent of the popular vote and did sufficiently well in

about 40 other seats, mainly in Transvaal and the Orange Free State, for them to be regarded as winnable by the right in future.

Botha does not have to face another white general election until early 1990, but he is committed to holding the first nationwide elections next October to separate white, Coloured, Indian and black African local authorities.

A combination of a right-wing white advance at these elections, which on current trends seems likely, and a well-organized boycott of them by Coloureds, Indians and blacks, accompanied by violence at the polling booths, is something Botha desperately wants to avoid. A poor voter turnout would destroy what little credibility his reform policy still retains.

Botha sees the new segregated local authorities as the basic building blocks of the larger edifice he is trying to construct, in which blacks would have a measure of self-government at municipal level and in the rural tribal homelands, and be allowed a consultative role in some national body yet to be defined.

Both the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), which are the most important organizations affected by the latest curbs, have come out strongly in support of a boycott of the October elections. Yesterday's crackdown appears in large part designed to nip the organization of a boycott campaign in the bud.

The restrictions on Cosatu, the country's largest and most militant black trade union federation, would also seem to reflect

growing concern in Pretoria that trade unions have become an outlet for political opposition. There seems to be a re-think going on about the wisdom of the legalization in 1979 of black trade unions. A Bill currently before parliament would considerably toughen the rather liberal (even by world standards) Labour Relations Act. Under the Bill sympathy strikes, consumer boycotts and repeated industrial action over the same issue would become unfair labour practices.

Botha may hope that by totally stifling extra-parliamentary opposition he can buy time for his new economic policies of privatization and deregulation. These are designed to stimulate an economic recovery, putting more money in the pockets of the emerging black middle class, which will then have a greater

vested interest in co-operating with the government to avoid violent revolution.

There is known to be debate going on within the UDF over whether or not to reconsider its boycott strategy, despite the public position of its leadership. By not banning the UDF outright as an organization, but merely those activities and individuals of which the government disapproves, Pretoria may think it can lure the UDF's more "moderate" members out into the open.

It seems a forlorn hope. While there should be no illusion about the ability of South African security to keep the lid on opposition for a long time ahead, it is hard to see how Botha's new measures can do anything but make it harder for conservative black leaders to co-operate.

They are already regarded as "sell-outs" by militant blacks, and if they were to enter into any sort of negotiations with the government while virtually the entire black opposition other than themselves is jailed, suppressed or under house arrest, they would be committing political, and perhaps literal, suicide.

Bernard Levin

With Sapper to oblivion

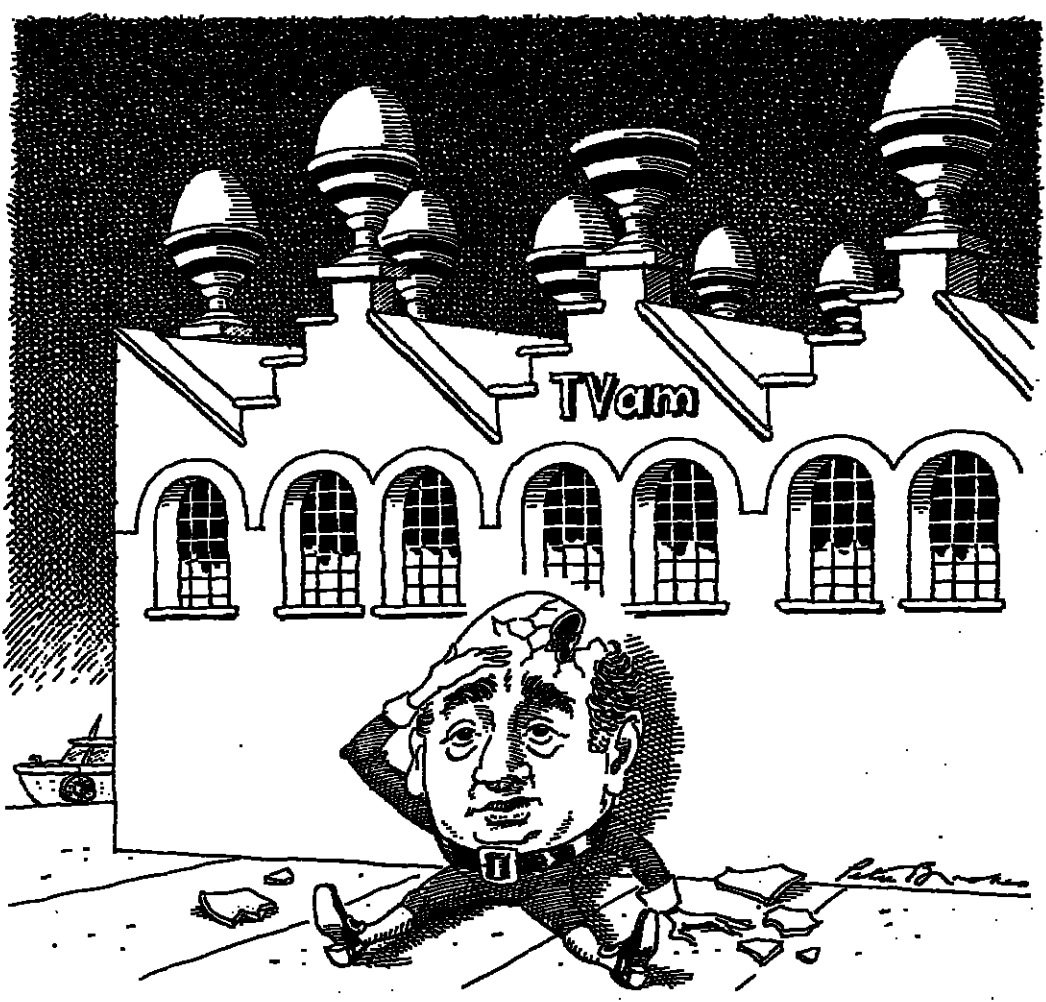
Who said "... it is a fact of history that in every age of transition men are never so firmly bound to one way of life as when they are about to abandon it, so that fanaticism and intolerance reach their most intense forms just before tolerance and mutual acceptance come to be the natural order of things."

Well, as a matter of fact, I did, in a book I wrote nearly 20 years ago, and I have never seen cause to revise my opinion; on the contrary, the present time seems determined to provide me daily with fresh examples of the truth of my aphorism. What, after all, could better demonstrate it than the weird events unfolding outside the studios of TV-am?

It has long been obvious that, just as the newspapers' technological revolution could not have taken place until the printing unions had been either transformed or defeated, so the essential and inevitable rationalization and expansion of television could not come to pass before a similar struggle had been waged and won; the "Spanish practices" had to go from Fleet Street, and the equally Iberian malarkey had to be ended in television.

In each case, the rot was stopped by one man; there is some argument over whether, in the forthcoming film, the part of Rupert Murdoch will be played by Bruce Gynell, or vice-versa (at present, Rupert is refusing to wear a pink shirt), but their revolutions could not have taken place if these two had not been absolutely determined to carry them through (though here a 21-gun salute for Eddy Shah); Gynell's action was even more remarkable than Murdoch's, since the latter had only himself to answer to, and the former had to keep the support of his board.

There are many more parallels in the two revolutions. For instance, though every national newspaper group was praying for the success of the Long March to Wapping, because success would mean that they could go unscratched through the hole in the hedge that News International



had made, not a word of approval, not a finger of help, came our way; indeed, they actively hindered our efforts, and some of the industrial reporting elsewhere was scandalous in its bias against the one company which was pulling everybody's chestnuts out of the fire. Bear that in mind, and read this account of the TV-am struggle in *The Independent*.

The decision by TV-am to dismiss its technicians... is being met with dubious and fearful head-shaking among the rest of ITV. "I think Bruce Gynell... has been acting without any well thought-out game plan... The flashpoint will come if they try to bring in other staff," another ITV director said. "Opinion has been shifting against TV-am's stand..."

Oh, that is only half the story: ... other ITV companies - Tyne Tees, Granada, Scottish and now Central, have been taking advantage of the changed climate to strike more limited deals with unions, while operating as normal.

There are parallels even more comical than those, notably the extraordinarily poor quality of the union chiefs, as I contemplate the catastrophic leadership of Mr Alan Sapper I can conjure up without difficulty all those Dubbineses and suchlike who roamed the earth in prehistoric times. (The print unions did have one sensible general secretary, Brenda Dean. Unfortunately, her generalship was of the Harold Wilson kind: "I am their leader - I must follow them.") And of course, the NUJ is urgently and assiduously seeking an opportunity to make an even bigger fool of itself over Wapping.

But the most striking likeness between the two upheavals is the fanatical, bone-headed, *jusqu'au bouillotte* resistance to obvious, beneficial, necessary and inevitable change. The story of the negotiations over the

commissioning of the Wapping plant has been told before, but it is epitomized in a single line from one of the print unions' chief negotiators. After several years of discussions, during which the union conceded nothing at all, he said to Murdoch's man: "Make up your mind - you are not going to work this place, so you might as well put a match to it. If you like, we'll do it for you."

Well, it was the print unions that went up in flames. As with print, so with television: TV-am was concerned only to bring the technicians' working rules somewhat closer to reality than 1911 (roughly what the ACTT thought the date was), and to end the practices that for so long had (still have) poisoned the

production of television as they had poisoned that of newspapers for so many years.

And that is where it stuck. Mind, I am not criticizing, and never have criticized, those who received or demanded high salaries; the labour market is a market like any other, and I have never waved away a profligate rise myself. But the television technician market was not a free one, any more than was the print worker market; the closed shop saw to that. Until Murdoch demonstrated that newspapers could be successfully produced without Sogad and the NGA, and Gynell showed no less clearly that a television studio could operate without the ACTT, their businesses could

not go on without the permission of the unions, and that permission was given only when it was wrapped in the aforesaid Spanish practices.

And in both cases, they thought - Sapper clearly still thinks - that it could and would go on for ever. Few who crossed the lines at Wapping while the siege was continuing could have failed to wonder at, and even to admire, the wholly pointless determination of the pickets. Few could have been anything but dumbstruck when, amid the recriminations that followed the collapse of the final attempt at agreement between TV-am and the ACTT, it transpired that the union had refused to concede any substantial principle of their now entirely

imaginary empire. It is as though the Amalgamated Union of Faggot-Suckers was still in business, and still forbidding Gaffeo to say that the Earth goes round the Sun, contrary to Section 179, subsection g, of the rulebook.

Late one evening, not long before the Wapping Revolution broke out, I spotted a seriously confusing misprint in the proof of my article for the next day's *Times*. Since there were only a few minutes to catch it, the sub-editor and I dashed up the stairs to where the page was being finished off. There it was, on a drawing-board, and I stepped forward to make the correction, whereupon the sub caught me by the wrist and dragged me back, hissing "You'll have the bloody paper stopped if you're not careful." I had forgotten I was forbidden to correct the proof - I had to point it out to the appropriate printworker so that he could make the correction.

How long ago that seems! But it isn't more than two or three years ago. It would have been pointless for me to explain to the man that he was helping to destroy his own livelihood as well as the company's; the chiming of the clock was as audible to him as to me, but for him it was his cue to fish out more stocks of intransigence.

And so it is at Camden Lock. The very idea of demarcation seems old and grey and full of sleep when you think of a television studio, but I dare say it doesn't to the demarcators. A brief trip to the future in a time machine would, of course, solve the problem: a mere five years round the lighthouse, and they would see the world transformed, and then with it. But alas, there are no time machines (the company with the patent went bankrupt while rival unions were deciding whose job it was to polish the buttons on the dashboard); there is only General Sapper, still fighting the last war but three, and his poor 229 foot-sloggers who, with grit and resolution, are determined to follow him every step of the way into the past.

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Barbarous visions

The BBC has always understood that violence or horror can harm children psychologically. That is why there are "guidelines" to help producers decide what degree and kind of violence is acceptable and why there are "watersheds" before which, in the interests of young viewers, programmes are supposed to be less violent, and also less foul-mouthed and less indecent than afterwards. Nine o'clock is more or less the witching watershed.

It is also conceded, up to a point, that violence, like pornography, is offensive as such to most people in some degree and must be duly controlled. But, until recently, there has been less willingness to acknowledge the most powerful reason for concern: the effect that entertainment violence may have in encouraging real violence. That concern was acknowledged in the recent seminar on violence which I discussed last week in respect of news programmes.

Yet even now the general tenor of last week's BBC Panorama on TV violence made it clear that this programme's producers still did not think there was a problem with regard to entertainment. They had established to their own satisfaction that in certain particular cases where crimes of violence had been said to have been stimulated by fictional violence, no such directly causal relationship existed or was provable. Yet concern about the social effects of TV, film or video violence rests not on the proposition that there is specific causality of this kind but on a much more insidious and general conditioning of social attitudes.

The cardinal point is that the realistic simulations of ferocious

violence made possible by film turn the viewer into a prurient witness and accomplice to acts which in reality are, by their nature, never seen. In real life there are no third-party free witnesses to rapes, murders or acts of sadism. Yet that is the position into which viewers are often placed. The clips shown to the seminar of violent fictional episodes which had been rejected for transmission by the BBC were an astounding insight into the depravity of imagination which conceived them. Some of the nastiest were taken from *Miami Vice*, a series which got worse as it went along and increasingly had to be censored by the BBC itself. This approach illuminates what is wrong.

Mr Bill Cotton, the BBC's managing director, told the seminar that the BBC was committed to providing "a range of programmes to suit different tastes". But television's producers and programme makers seem quite unwilling to recognize that by the kind of programmes they transmit they help to manufacture the taste for which they cater. The escalation of a taste for violence in entertainment is analogous to the progress from soft to hard drugs and from soft to the hardest pornography; and with pornography there is evidence enough that the reduction of women in fantasy to sex objects may stimulate sexual violence in practice.

Mr Cotton also observed that "the BBC's role is to ensure a realistic portrayal of violence in a responsible and moral context". But where is the responsibility and reality of programmes which seem largely to exist for violence? The guidelines and the watersheds, the

SCIENCE REPORT

Grey matter



The human brain may be a computer, but it probably works on quite different principles from conventional computers based on semiconductors. That is the conclusion of two US neurobiologists writing in this week's *Nature*.

With 100 million million nerve cells, each connected to perhaps 10,000 others, the human brain is immensely more complicated than the most advanced digital computers. David Zipser, of the University of California, and Richard Andersen, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, now suggest that the brain may be better thought of as a "neural network" whose immense strength comes from the collective action of many un-intelligent units, performing simple calculations in parallel.

That view is causing excitement among computer designers. Even the biggest computers cannot yet be made to perform the simplest of human tasks, such as recognizing a face. Neural network computers, designed to be more like the brain, might do better.

The first experimental neural network computers have already been built. Unlike ordinary digital computers, they do not have one central processor. Many simple calculating elements are connected together so that they can work in co-operation. Instead of a rigid programme, neural network computers adjust themselves by trial and error until they find a pattern

every single step of a calculation must be specified, and carried out in sequence. The neural network approach is much fuzzier. A network of elements simulates the pattern of nerve connections in a tiny piece of brain. Zipser and Andersen describe a network containing just three layers of computing elements, each with - at most - 64 units. Since each unit connects to every unit in the next layer, the network has a rich pattern of interconnections.

To arrive at the correct solution of a problem, the network's errors must be corrected. At first, the strength of connections between units is random and the network makes blind guesses about the position of an object. But after each attempt, the strengths of the connections between units are adjusted to reduce the gap between the guess and the correct answer. Eventually, the network is able to perform the calculations with ease.

Without actually analysing a problem, as would be required to programme a digital computer, a neural network can be made to learn, through trial and error, a technique for reaching correct solutions.

Once their neural network was successfully trained, Zipser and Andersen measured the pattern of electrical activity in nerve cells of the monkey brain in the region that calculates the position of objects.

In the digital computer,

ALUN ANDERSON © Nature-The Times News Service, 1988



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BAD BANNINGS

President Botha's decision to ban the political activities of his opponents on yesterday's unprecedented scale has done more to damage South Africa's long-term security than the 17 organizations concerned were ever likely to do by themselves. By proscribing the political activities of black trade unions — activities which were being far more effectively questioned by their own members — and by banning leaders like the United Democratic Front's Mr Archie Gumede, who had begun to perceive the need for greater realism in black politics, Mr Botha has breathed fresh life into black protest.

He has also brought South Africa back on to the international agenda. He has almost certainly revived a sanctions campaign that was dying on its feet. He has given new impetus to the ANC. Outside observers of the increasingly opaque South African scene could be forgiven for believing that Mr Botha and his security advisers feel uneasy only if they are not the focus of foreign opprobrium.

In recent months, as the state of emergency has effectively stifled first the scenes of township violence and then the violence itself, international outrage has been transferred to other countries with other problems. Sanctions, outside the siltier recesses of American politics, have become a dead issue. Even their most convinced supporters within South Africa have begun to mute their advocacy of a weapon which will hurt no one but themselves.

More important still, black political leaders have been forced to come to terms with the fact that white power will not be easily dislodged. Faced with rising disenchantment from their ranks, they have begun to reassess the comparative value of sterile protest politics against more realistic strategies.

Indeed, if Mr Botha's own strategy had been to compel his black opposition to accept compromise and negotiation, there were shy

but distinct signs that it was beginning to bear fruit. After yesterday's events, cynics — and South African politics does nothing if not create cynics by the score — will wonder if Mr Botha would not have found a new realism in black politics less easy to cope with than the protest industry. But that ascribes a Machiavellianism to Pretoria which it does not possess.

The probable truth is cruder but no less cynical. It is that Mr Botha's sights were fixed not on his opposition in black South Africa but on his enemies on the far right of the white tribe itself and on next week's test of strength between his government and Dr Andries Treurnicht's Conservative Party in two Transvaal by-elections.

It is fruitless to suggest that any government enjoying almost total dominance of white politics ought not to be unduly troubled by a few minor reverses at the polls. Ever since Dr Treurnicht split the National Party and Afrikanerdom from top to bottom in 1982, his party, its fortunes and its future have become the abiding obsession of South Africa's white rulers. Compared to the debate between the government and its far-right offspring, all other issues — dissent on the Afrikaner left, trials in the townships, international excommunication — pale into insignificance.

Mr Botha wanted to flex his muscles to demonstrate to the wavering voters of two small Transvaal towns that South Africa was safe in his hands. A report last year by his security establishment that the African National Congress was using local organizations to mobilise politically provided him with the excuse. The question remains whether those Transvaal voters, untutored though they are in the ways of the world and in the attitudes of black fellow South Africans, should be so easily reassured.

FORTY YEARS AGO TODAY

In Czechoslovakia 1988 is the year of the three anniversaries — only two of them likely to be widely noted in the West. The 1938 Munich accord and the consequent unopposed annexation of the Czech Sudetenland is well entrenched in Britain's conscience and its textbooks. The crushing of the "Prague Spring" in 1968 is still a date kept fresh in the direct memories of many Britons. But the events of 1948 are somehow in that category of intermediate history which, like the day before yesterday's literature, is always the kind most easily overlooked.

It was 40 years ago today that Stalin's man in Prague, Klement Gottwald, ousted his opponents in the democratically elected Czech government and began the totalitarian rule which has extended over that nation ever since. The fate of Czechoslovakia contained a number of lessons and, although some were learnt at the time, some still need to be learnt.

The country had done much to determine its own fate by voting the communists as the largest parliamentary party in the post-war elections of 1946. The communists' 38 per cent of the vote resulted in Gottwald becoming Prime Minister in a coalition government. The Czechs had not, of course, voted for repression, rigged trials and the creation of a communist police state. But that is what they got.

Protests by non-communists only led to a manifesto accusing them of provoking a crisis and calling on the workers to resist the reactionaries. Their demise was to be symbolized in March when Jan Masaryk, the foreign minister son of the philosopher-founder of Czechoslovakia, Thomas Masaryk, died after jumping — or more likely being pushed — out of a window.

February, 1948, quickly presented problems to apologists for Soviet communism. Czechoslovakia had a powerful industrial tradition. It was not a peasant society like that of the Soviet Union where communist enthusiasts could claim that their economic creed had failed for

lack of fertile ground. When the Czech economy failed it was because communist dogma created a museum of industrial archaeology where once there had been prosperous markets.

Czechoslovakia also had a tradition of political freedom. It had most of the hallmarks of an open society. No one could blithely claim — as they did in the case of other Soviet satellites — that the Czechs had merely replaced one authoritarian system with another. Soviet totalitarianism had to put down its own roots — which it did with ruthlessness and tenacity. Its military might was not needed. The proximity of Stalin's tanks — and the distance of anyone else's — was enough.

As the Czechs saw it at the time, the Western democracies had delivered them to Hitler while Stalin's Russia had constantly, if falsely, claimed that it would have resisted. They had then seen Soviet Russia received into the anti-Nazi alliance and had watched (especially those of them in exile) the anti-communist democrats, Churchill and Roosevelt, consorting with Stalin. After the war there was friendship towards the Russians throughout the democracies because of their sufferings; in Britain even Stalin himself had become kindly "Uncle Joe".

Failure to understand the true nature of communism extended far beyond Czechoslovakia. But the truth was at least grasped in some quarters as a result of those events 40 years ago. The National Executive Committee of Atlee's Labour Party declared that Czech democratic unity had been shattered in a week "because communists consider as enemies all those who do not surrender unconditionally to their slightest whim". The Marshall Plan to revive Europe with US aid was reinforced. And in three weeks' time there is another fortieth anniversary, that of the Brussels Pact. It was the death of Czech freedom which triggered the integration of the United States into the defence of Europe and the creation of Nato.

COME RAIN OR SHINE

During last week's discussions about Sir Robin Ibb's report on Whitehall management, the civil service minister, Mr Richard Luce, was asked whether under the proposed system of managerial accountability a chief executive of the Meteorological Office might face dismissal for failing to predict a hurricane. In such grossly hypothetical circumstances — Mr Luce said — the new managerialism could well demand his head, although, of course, that would depend on the agreement drawn up.

It was an intriguing answer. That the Meteorological Office should be managed effectively is obvious. It may respond well to a system in which a new chief executive would have greater freedom to hire and fire staff and vary pay levels sufficiently to attract scientists of quality to Bracknell and the other outposts of the forecasting empire.

But to make the qualitative judgements of Met Office forecasters the subject of managerial discipline, that is to go rather further. It engenders fears which were particularly noticeable yesterday when the Government published the results of the study of the Met Office's performance last October which it commissioned from Professors Pearce and Swinerton-Dyer.

When these eminent academics were given their brief, it looked very much as if Mr George Younger, the Defence Secretary, was bowing rather too low to the winds of public dismay that had followed the high velocity air stream. The high pitch of the public's response to an entirely natural event was not necessarily something that deserved amplifying by ministers.

It looked, too, as if by being forced to pore over the computer print outs available to the forecasters in the hours before the winds blew, the investigators would miss bigger and more relevant questions. Why, for example, did the

Met Office remain within the Defence Ministry's ambit when its purposes were predominantly civil? Was the balance correct between its work as producer of commercial forecasts for the private sector and its place as a kind of national utility?

In the event the academics have, as expected, given the Met Office a clean bill of health, blaming too variation in the available data and too slavish a reliance on the forecasting model. They usefully remind us all that television forecasters — like all communicators — prefer a good story to one clouded by uncertainties and qualifications, and that Mr Michael Fish's sins of omission or commission should not all be visited on the heads of the Met Office.

Their recommendations, it follows, are not spectacular: more training, sufficient extra staff to permit some reflection on the data and its interpretation by computer models. What is missing, perhaps inevitably, is an answer to the central question which Mr Luce touched upon. How far should professionals, especially those buttressed by academic disciplines, expert training and quantitative skills be subject to the cruder stings of job insecurity and assessment of performance?

The same problem underlies many of the issues currently under debate in the National Health Service. It crops up again when we try to gauge the service provided by lawyers and architects.

Making Michael Fish a butt of a national joke does no harm, but it does not make any less urgent this question's resolution. Turning the Meteorological Office into a semi-independent agency ought to be an occasion when it gets a sharper answer than it has had to date, without the public demanding the head of its chief executive every time it rains when it ought to have shone.

Annual audits for small businesses

From Lord Bruce of Donington
Sir, It is to be hoped that the entire accountancy profession will support the initiative of the Deputy President of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants in his letter to you (February 20).

Far from being a burden on small businesses enjoying the benefits of limited liability, the statutory annual audit of their accounts is in fact a very considerable advantage to them. The formal disciplines imposed by the Companies Act ensure that the proprietors/managing directors of these small concerns are made fully aware, at least once a year, of their financial state and profitability.

That this is fully appreciated by those engaged in running small businesses is completely confirmed by the Government's own 1985 report, "Burden on Business", which showed that only 1 per cent of small firms regarded the requirements of company law (including audit) to be a burden.

Moreover, for so long as the tax liability of small business, whether limited-liability companies or not, is determined by reference to their profits, annual accounts will continue to be required by the Inland Revenue and will therefore have to be prepared in any event — unless of course the Treasury instructs the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to accept a rough figure of voluntary declaration of profits by a mere mention in the tax return.

One therefore ventures to doubt whether the small entrepreneur, were he to be rid of the present audit requirements, would welcome further intrusions into his hard-working day, as would arise from the requirements thrust upon him of replying to queries from his inspector of taxes on matters concerned with the unauthorised, and possibly inaccurate, accounts sent in for examination.

The Government might do well to ponder further on this matter, regardless of what pressure may be put upon them by a European Commission singularly insensitive to such considerations. Yours sincerely, BRUCE, House of Lords, February 22.

Safety in the air

From Lady Burton of Coventry
Sir, The Civil Aviation Authority, commenting on the air-miss between a British Airways and a Bulgarian airliner on February 6 that could so easily have been an air disaster, killing some 500 passengers, said:

The authority has already established that operations on Saturday were unusual because of the closure of runways at Heathrow and Gatwick for repairs, leading to increased pressure on the air traffic control system.

Last month the Chairman of the CAA, Mr Christopher Tugendhat, told airline representatives that extra capacity would be needed in the late 1990s and beyond and that the issue should be considered now; yet the Chairman of BAA plc, Sir Norman Payne, said that there was no need at this precise time to develop another runway to serve the London area.

Faced with this complete difference of opinion, I was told in the House on February 18 that "the initiative is quite definitely with the CAA". Being somewhat sceptical, I recalled that in 1984,

the CAA had proposed a fresh approach to the development of civil aviation in this country and that the Government had ignored it. Were we expected to believe that this expected approach on capacity would be different?

"Yes", was the reply, because the minister has the power under section 69 of the Airports Act 1986 to direct the CAA to take the steps that it thinks appropriate to encourage or facilitate a section 16(2) recommendation.

Section 69 defines the duty of the CAA to implement recommendations concerning airport capacity, while the reference to section 16(2) means that, now,

The Secretary of State in receipt of such a recommendation would be able to direct the CAA to take appropriate steps to encourage or facilitate the provision of such facilities and services as are necessary to give effect to its recommendations. (Hansard, June 23, 1986, col. 92).

We shall see. Yours faithfully, BURTON OF COVENTRY, House of Lords, February 22.

seemingly officially and embarrassingly disowned by the Department of the Environment because they were too high.

Planning policies for the south-east region were devised with an eye to new household formation but with other desirable objectives in mind also, like urban renewal and protection of the countryside. Surely such carefully established policy is not to be cast aside whenever a new set of household projections is published?

As for the idea that making the South-east even more of a growth area than it already is "could be better for the environment", I can only assure your letter writer that this is not the view held by the vast majority of voters, urban and rural, in that region.

Yours faithfully, DAVID ASTOR, Chairman, Council for the Protection of Rural England, 4 Hobart Place, SW1, February 22.

civilised nations, and indeed even some not so civilised, that the emblem must remain sacrosanct if the neutrality of the Red Cross is to remain unimpaired.

I was first made aware of this upon the outbreak of World War II. Until then all RAF aircraft had a small red cross painted on them to indicate from the outside where the first-aid kit was stowed. An innocent enough purpose one might think, but in 1939 this symbol had to be removed and the words "first aid" substituted at the insistence of the International Red Cross in Geneva because, after all, they were military aircraft.

Mr Mandelson should now take whatever comfort he can from the fact that it was a Conservative government in power at the time and desist from his attempt to harness this respected symbol for his party political ends.

Yours faithfully, M. A. TATAM, 13 Turnpike Road, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire, February 22.

A full life for disabled child

From Dr and Mrs Ronald Stephens
Sir, We read with great interest the article by your Social Services Correspondent, Jill Sherman ("£100,000 a year to keep girl alive", February 20). Our son, Nicholas, aged nine, is in a similar situation to Alicia Leston-Rama.

When he was 18 months old he became paralysed from the neck down as a result of meningitis. He too requires permanent artificial ventilation.

For the last six years he has lived at home. During this time the support we have been given has been extremely patchy and quite expensive to us as a family.

Three main areas need to be considered if children like Nicholas and Alicia are to have full and enjoyable lives in society. The first relates to the financial cost of looking after children (and adults) at home in this situation; then there is the education of these children; and finally there is the medical support that will be occasionally required.

When Nicholas first left hospital he was given nursing support at night. During the day we employed a nanny to help us look after him. A nanny is still employed, but night nursing is no longer required. We have the occasional use of a nurse, provided we ask for one several days in advance. We can only go out together when either the nanny or nurse takes over the carer's role. Arranging for care so that we can have a short holiday each year presents other organisational and financial problems.

Despite being paralysed Nicholas drives a powered wheelchair. DHSS powered chairs should not be used outdoors and so one has to be purchased privately. Once in the powered chair he then wishes to be taken out, as any other child wishes. This can only be achieved if a specially adapted vehicle is used and they are very expensive.

London's traffic
From Mr Simon Hall
Sir, As someone who delivers goods to the inner London area, I must correct the impression given by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu (February 20) that double-parked delivery vans are a cause of obstruction.

It is the private car motorist parking illegally who causes vans and lorries to be double parked when effecting deliveries as part of their service and livelihood. It would seem to make more sense to limit the number of cars entering the centre of the capital, as in Valletta or other cities, rather than add to the traffic congestion by allowing private motorists to indulge their often selfish interests rather than make use of public transport.

Yours faithfully, SIMON HALL, 7 The Stables, Great Hyde Hall, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire.

Cost of a copy
From Miss Ruth Elwyn Harris
Sir, The Public Record Office is not alone in charging exorbitant rates for photocopying (Professor D. Cameron Watt, January 25). The Imperial War Museum charges 25p a page. Like the PRO, the Imperial War Museum's hours (10 to 5, five days a week, in the reading room) and its location south of the river do not give the part-time or amateur researcher much time to copy by hand. Photocopying is the only alternative.

I have photocopying done locally at 5p a sheet. The agency must find it profitable at that rate — it has been in business for a number of years. Why not the PRO and IWM?

Yours faithfully, RUTH HARRIS, Holly Lodge, 10 Belgrave Crescent, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, February 15.

Election advice
From Professor D. A. Kavanagh
Sir, The heading ("Lawson's bad advice") to my article on February 13 was misleading about the contents of the article and about Mr Lawson. In October, 1973, Mr Lawson argued for an early election because of worsening economic conditions.

In the next few weeks Mr Heath received other advice advocating an early election in January or early February, 1974. Mr Heath ignored it and left the election until February 28. Mr Lawson's arguments were not for such a "late" election.

Yours faithfully, D. A. KAVANAGH, University of Nottingham, Department of Politics, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, February 24.

Perfect timing
From Mrs Elisabeth Howard
Sir, With reference to the directions for boiled alarm clock (Mr David Edwards's letter, February 18), yes I have indeed got a recipe for "afters". Having lost a much-loved wrist-watch, I was extremely surprised to find it a year later at the bottom of my freezer. I wound it up and, hey presto, it was ticking away as good as new. Frozen seconds?

Yours faithfully, ELISABETH HOWARD, Grove Cottage, Newbridge, Cadnam, Southampton, Hampshire, February 19.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 25 1932

James Wilmot, "the first Baconian", was rector of Barton on the Heath, Warwickshire. According to a biography by his niece, Olivia Serres, he was a Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford who, after making his mark in literary circles, retired to his rectory where he made a detailed study of the works of Bacon. Elsewhere in his life he claimed that he had been secretly married to the sister of the King of Poland.

The First Baconian
In today's issue of *The Literary Supplement* of *The Times* Professor Allardyce Nicoll analyses from the United States of America, to confer it upon England, a not wholly covetable distinction. He tips an American, Joseph Hart, off his pedestal, and puts up James Wilmot, an Englishman, in his stead. Joseph Hart was the American Consul at Santa Cruz de los Rios, as part of the "Faintest" the dawn of the belief that William Shakespeare ("Player Shaksper" as he is now called) could not have written Shakespeare. Hitherto Hart has been to the orthodox the first damnable schemer, to the heterodox the glorious kindler of the light of truth. From Hart the torch passed to Miss Delia Bacon, also an American, in 1856; the very year in which Mr W. H. Smith, of London, took up the cause; and are two more decades had passed Mrs Henry Pott, an English lady of great charm and learning, had claimed for Bacon not only Shakespeare but also Montaigne and a good deal else, suspecting meanwhile the whole staff of the British Museum Library. Being American, she was to conceal their knowledge of the truth from the vulgar world. Then very soon came Mr Ignatius Donnelly, of the United States, with Bacon's cypher and cryptograms and so forth, which proved that Bacon wrote not only Shakespeare and Montaigne, but also Marlowe and Bionton's Anatomy, and hot foot after him came Mrs Gallup, whose even rather cuts at orthodox started a quarrel between Baconians and Shakespearians which, with letters from great guns and leading articles from correspondents, raged furiously in this journal for two months in the winter of 1901 to 1902. And at home we have had our later and soberer yet "Bacon-shall" Baconians, like Sir William Dunning Lawrence, and our anti-Stratfordians, who are more concerned to prove that Player Shaksper did not write Shakespeare than that Bacon or anyone else did, with Sir George Greenwood prancing gallantly at their head; and younger men who have added Sidney's "Arcadia" and a few more such trifles to Bacon's score. And still we have not mentioned the people who think that Shakespeare was written by Lord Rutland, or Lord Derby, or Lord Oxford, and those who want to fly for Bacon's remains in Lichfield Cathedral (his tomb is in St. Michael's Church, St. Albans), or who dredge the river at Chesham for documentary evidence.

Of all the joyful branches of this fruitful tree Hart was the root. And now comes Mr Nicoll to show that, fifty years or more before the truth had dawned in the New World, it had been shining brighter still in the Old World... if there should be any feeling of regret in the United States at the loss of Hart's claim to be the first anti-Stratfordian, there will be consolation in the thoughts that Hart knew nothing of Wilmot, and that Wilmot's reasoning seems to have been consonant with that of his many and brilliant successors and wholly worthy of his giddy eminence.

Yours faithfully, R. M. STEPHENS, J. G. STEPHENS, 88 Stokes Road, Furbrook, Hampshire, February 21.

Battle lines

"Audiences don't know anybody writes a picture. They think the actors just make it up as they go along," said William Holden in *Sunset Boulevard*. When you get a film such as *The Third Man* (shown again on Tuesday), which audiences know was written by someone, it turns out that the most famous speech - about Switzerland and the cuckoo clock - was indeed made up by an actor, Orson Welles, and not by the writer, Graham Greene.

In Roger Thompson's neatly turned programme for *Bookmark* (BBC2), *The Writer's Film*, the screenwriters had the chance to bite back. In fact, they were not as mordant as they might have been - and

TELEVISION

there was even a surprising endorsement of the cinema, from none other than Tolstoy.

The British writers - William Boyd, Ian McKwan, Graham Swift - were better known for their work outside the cinema and therefore had that safety net for their souls, which William Goldman said was so essential in his bitter-sweet farewell to screenwriting, *Adventures in the Screen Trade*. "You must write something else. Anything else. Epic poems or rhyming couplets, novels or non-fiction..."

Even Frederic Raphael, who has experienced more than the others the meretricious trials of the Hollywood script conference, was understanding of moguls' high-handedness with writers: "If you're overpaid they do not feel obliged to be nice to you as well."

The American veterans of Hollywood, however, were more bitter. Julius Epstein, with his twin brother one of the writers of *Casablanca*, thought that the script was "95 per cent" of a film but no-one in a restaurant has ever recognised his name.

Meanwhile, in that Eighties style-generation designer-violence gangster series, *The Fear* (ITV), the script increasingly delivers the shock of the old as the slick veneer gives way to well-tried scenarios.

Andrew Hislop

Sounding of a symbol

David Robinson considers Bernardo Bertolucci's study of the ill-starred Pu Yi, final emperor of China, and reviews this week's other newly released films

- CINEMA**
- The Last Emperor (15)**
Odeon Leicester Square
- Stakeout (15)**
Warner West End, Odeon Marble Arch
- Silent Voice (U)**
Cannon Panton Street

The life of Pu Yi, the last Emperor of China, is an irresistibly fascinating story with a fashionably exotic setting. For 60 of his 62 years, Pu Yi was a living symbol, witness and victim of the dramatic history of 20th century China. In 1908 he was elevated to the throne of the ancient Chinese Empire, and revered as an infant demi-god. With the establishment of the first Republic, he was confined, an impotent monarch, in Peking's Forbidden City.

Much of the Twenties he spent as a playboy exile in Tientsin; but in the Thirties he was restored as puppet emperor of Manchukuo, Japanese-occupied Manchuria. With the communization of China, he was imprisoned as a war criminal on account of his collaboration with the Japanese.

Finally released, he passed his last years as a rehabilitated citizen of the new People's Republic. He died in 1967, as the Cultural Revolution was moving into its worst phase.

These extraordinary shifts of fortune are more like some antique picaresque novel than a story of our times, and the script of Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor*, by Bertolucci and Mark Peploe, treats it as a tragedy of ill-starred fate. Pu Yi is a gentle, intelligent man, open to enlightenment; yet the early years of privilege have given him only an inconvenient arrogance and such dependence in prac-



Puppet pair: John Lone and Joan Chen as Pu Yi, at the time he was made emperor in Manchukuo, and his empress Wan Jung

tical affairs that he cannot tie his own shoes.

A major achievement of the film is to show convincingly the development of the character through a succession of four different actors, whose make-up is so cleverly contrived that it is often difficult to recognise the transitions.

The smallest Pu Yi (Richard Yu) is a grinning toddler who gallops around leading his eunuchs a dance, and leaving them precious relics in his pottie. The next (Tiger Tsou) leaves regal self-assurance; the adolescent emperor (Wu Tao) debates with his crotchety English tutor (Peter O'Toole) and discovers love and the benefit of spectacles.

The adult Pu Yi ages from fresh-faced 18 to a trouble-worn 64, and matures from Emperor into a patient citizen and gardener. John Lone, an actor who started out in the Hong Kong Peking Opera and achieved film stardom as the young gangster in *The Year of the Dragon*, does the part with exemplary dignity, skilfully smoothing over some rather abrupt character transitions in the script.

The major part of the film is seen as a series of flashbacks from the Communist prison in which Pu Yi was held from 1950 to 1959. The interrogations and techniques of extortion ("confessions") is marvellously done, with Ric Young and Ying Ruocheng (interviewed on this page last Saturday and once a victim of the Cultural Revolution) as the interrogators.

Equally credible and disturbing are the scenes in 1967 of young Red Guards punishing their erring seniors, passages which must have special poignancy for Bertolucci whose generation trusted so fervently in the Cultural Revolution in those years. Bertolucci draws parallels between a Maoist demonstration and the old Imperial kowtowing.

The least gripping and persuasive sections of the film are the scenes in Tientsin and Manchuria, partly perhaps because the settings are less bewitching than the splendours of the old imperial court or the dramatic grey and red of the Maoist prison. The narrative is less certain here, too: beside the convincing restraint of John Lone, it is hard to believe in characters of melodrama like the lesbian *femme fatale* in her skin-tight flying suit.

But the story holds its fascination and *The Last Emperor* is a supremely spectacular film, with its hundreds of extras, its lavish costuming, and the incomparable ready-made and authentic sets provided by the Forbidden City. Such spectacle is inevitably something of a snare: when a scene costs this much it is hard to cut it short, and there are passages of the film (especially in Tientsin and Manchuria) where some paring down from the present 162 minutes would have done no harm.

A Red dawn?

Thirty-eight years ago, at the height of the Cold War, when the Berlin festival was inaugurated, the countries of the Socialist world were totally excluded from competition. At last night's awards ceremony for the 1988 festival, it was the socialist cinemas of China, the USSR, East Germany and Poland which carried off the lion's share of the prizes.

No less remarkable was that the three top awards all went to first-time feature directors - even though poor Alexander Askoldov's debut with *The Commissar* has been 20 years delayed. No doubt his Silver Bear will be some small compensation.

Though Britain's single competition entry, *Little Dorrit*, received no Jury award, it

BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL

is some consolation that Miguel Pereira, director of the Argentinian silver prize-winner *The Dancer*, was trained in this country (he graduated from the London Film School the day of the Falklands invasion); and that the British Film Institute part-funded his film.

The remaining prizes went to the United States, for Norman Jewison's stylish romantic comedy *Moonstruck*, with fine playing by Cher and Nicolas Cage; the American-Italian love story, *Holly Hunter* for her performance as a TV reporter in James L. Brooks's *Broadcast News*.

Some of the most rewarding films appeared in Berlin's non-competitive side-events. From Canada, Atom Egoyan's *Family Viewing* is a clever, kinky satire on the invasion of every area of private and public life by the video screen. The hero is a peculiar 18-year-old, in love with his grandmother.

Hardly less eccentric is the latest film by Percy Adlon, *Out of Rosenheim*, a German production shot in America, with the hefty Marianne Sägebrecht, who featured in Adlon's earlier *Sugar Baby*. Both these intriguing films are already earmarked for London showings.

D. R.

Panic leads to abiding beauty

THEATRE

Different Ghosts
ICA

A readiness to enjoy the genre of "performance theatre" will govern the response to Gary Stevens's new piece, an elegant, bemusing, haunting work for five performers and himself, which opens the ICA's spring season of "New British Theatre".

Only pause a moment on that last phrase and the adjective is seen to net a shoal of events the ICA actively avoids: the new Jeffrey Archer, for example, though also the new Stoppard and the new Howard Barker, works that could not physically fit into the place, of course, but nor would they square with its temperament. The non-verbal and the irrational is what the ICA truly loves.

It is my experience that "performance theatre" is enjoyable so long as the performances are not self-loving - a trap Gary Stevens and his five safely avoid - and insofar as they resist calling upon the whimsical for their effects.

The evening begins with a spottier wicker bird cage on an empty stage. Who can be sure what this signifies? However it is soon removed and the stage becomes a room inhabited by the visible ghosts of people who have lived in it. A 16th-century shoemaker (Miranda Payne) cuts patterns at her work-table; a thoughtful Georgian girl is sweet-talked by her ingratiating swain (Heather Ackroyd and Brian Lipson); and a couple in Victorian black (Jan Pearson, Joe Staines) argue about furniture.

They are aware of their predecessors in time but not of their successors - or mostly not, because the boundaries start breaking down. All seem half-aware of Stevens as he plods in from the wings, bringing chairs and cooking pots, and looking about him like a trespassing schoolboy.



Give her a hand: Miranda Payne and the "flickering flames"

At various points the theme is the nature of memory, curiosity as to the past, and the unfathomable workings of the female mind. In isolation almost all the scenes exhibit a curious charm.

Too much reliance is placed on the obvious hazards of figures from different centuries occupying the same space, but there are other episodes in which objects rapidly accumulate, silver ornaments or wooden lasts or flickering flames representing flames licking the sleeping shoemaker, and here Stevens and his team combine visual imagination and circus skills to achieve, out of the panic, a lingering beauty.

Never mind her Subtlety left out

The Importance of Being Honest
Crawford Theatre, Jordan Hill

With their usual sense of the contemporary, the music theatre company Wildcat have turned their attention to official secrets, censorship and other economies with the truth. *The Importance of Being Honest*, words and music by David McNiven, is a cartoon strip of a show about the McSwiney family. They manage to get inadvertently involved with M15, M16 and the Special Branch because their son's interest in butterflies at a local pit, as published in an obscure bug-hunters' journal, uses the same words as the current secret service code book.

The tip turns out to be a cover for a top secret government hide-out and as the land re-fill scheme there is giving off methane gas, which ultimately explodes and brings the show to an end, you get some ecology thrown in for good measure. A wildly enthusiastic Glasgow audience loved every minute of it, from the incompetent secret service agents (a double act in the best vaudeville tradition from Rob

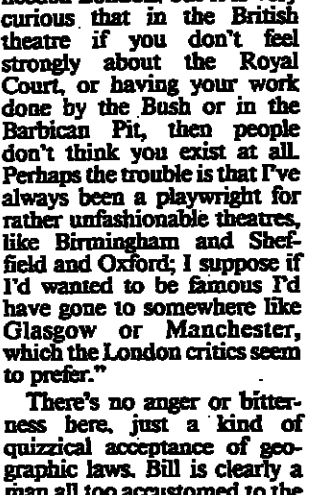
Bill's overdue credit

Playwright
Stephen Bill, in the West End for the first time with
Curtains, talks to
Sheridan Morley

Peter Nichols, *Curtains* is a play about an 86-year-old and decrepit grandmother being helped out of life by her own daughter, but Stephen Bill is keen to establish that it is not a "problem" play about euthanasia itself.

"All I've attempted to do is bring together a group of people who find themselves increasingly out of their depth and to look at the quality of their lives; my contention being that life is very much a relative experience."

So is this in any sense an autobiographical piece? "No, although it did arise from the



Stephen Bill:

'The trouble with coming from the Midlands is that you might as well be Australian'

last meeting I had with my grandmother, in a garish day-room: there was an anger in the face of things we dared not say, an anger born of frustration for subjects that we had never dared to broach, for feelings and thoughts that could no longer be put into words: my play is an attempt to address that silence.

"Watching my grandmother, and the family's response to her as she gradually lost her faculties, is where *Curtains* started and is where of course incidents in the play which the family would rec-



Stephen Bill and Sheridan Morley

ognize, but that's as far as it goes. Grandmother came through surgery at 90 before she died, and in that process she very nearly drove my mother into a mental home.

"But I didn't really want to look at my own family. I wanted to look at English attitudes to death, and the dumping-grounds where we put people to die. Although I've set the story in Birmingham, it could be almost any Midlands town, where people are united by a flatness of speech and dryness of humour."

"Unlike, for instance, Willy Russell in Liverpool, I'm not really a Birmingham playwright, although I've been a sort of writer in residence at the theatre there since about 1979 and I did a trilogy for them which led Michael Attenborough to commission this one for Hampstead. But my plays are about the lower middle classes anywhere. I really started off in Sheffield as an actor, and that was where I began writing professionally."

Stephen Bill has been an award-winner for most of his writing career, with Thames Television and John Whiting honours going right back through the 1980s.

"The Thames award was for the first television play I ever wrote, *Lindsey*, which was about the parents of a *spina baby*, and after I won that I could afford to spend the next 12 months on two other plays instead of having to do drama-serial rubbish to pay the rent. My wife's an actress but we've got two small children so you're always thinking about money, and perhaps I really should have got somewhere by now that wasn't still marked 'promising'."

"The trouble with coming from the Midlands is that you might as well be Australian: it simply isn't artistically fashionable. Birmingham and Derby seem not to be cultural centres: people think a Birmingham girl like Julie Walters must be from Liverpool because that's where the action is in terms of music and theatre still."

"But it's been interesting having a London success at last: since *Curtains* opened four months ago I've found myself dealing with European rights and a possible film, and you watch what you thought of as a play gradually becoming a property. I'm not sure it really does you a lot of good, and it probably destroys your right to fail with the next one, but at least it buys a little time to think about what I really want to do next."

Il corsaro

Bloomsbury Theatre

Verdi intended *Il corsaro* for London, on account of its origins in Byron's poem, but it took over a century to get here, first at the 1966 St Pancras Festival and this week in a middling production by University College Opera. If this does nothing more, it offers some evidence that the work is not half as bad as a previous generation alleged.

Of course its cause has been helped in the meantime by the splendid gramophone recording with Caballé, Carreras and Jessye Norman, which should have given listeners different expectations by now. Composed after *Macbeth* and before *Luisa Miller*, it has Verdi flexing his musical muscle to articulate Piva's disjointed libretto, about a cartoon-strip Greek pirate who lives by his own code of superheroic conduct.

Verdi characterizes him by sending his vocal line constantly soaring upwards, which put a strain on Warwick Dyer's baritone tenor, though he looked sufficiently lean and moody to swashbuckle with the best. Deserving his lachrymose bel canto, sung with plaintive feeling by Christine Bunning, he voyages off to fight the Turk, only to fall prisoner to a wicked Pasha, whose role found David Barrell happier in his higher register.

Even detractors found much to praise in the prison scene, whence comes the Pasha's favourite to rescue the pirate, for whom she has conceived a hopeless passion. Susan McCulloch encompassed a careful cabaret or two, before and after washing one man's feet and worshipping at the other's.

The production is fairly rudimentary. Christopher Field's conducting favoured variations of tempo at the expense of line, and his willing but wayward orchestra left rather a lot of Verdi to the imagination. But *Corsaro* still deserves attention. Further performances on Friday and Saturday.

Noel Goodwin

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BOOKS

Star of magic mountain

Fiona MacCarthy on the art of an outsider who became a survivor

Of the many books on Hockney two are now essential: *David Hockney* (1967) and *David Hockney* (1987). This vast and sumptuously illustrated volume produced to coincide with the retrospective exhibition in Los Angeles. It will please that master masquerader that such a summing up of his career to date should emanate from Southern California where the details of his early life seem magical and baffling. National Service in the England of the Fifties is referred to as if it were a ritual of the age of Chaucer.

Hockney is the great story-teller of our time. It is his lyrical narrative skill which has made him the most popular, accessible of artists, and indeed it is this novelistic sense of situation which allows one to read a David Hockney as one might an Iris Murdoch. His painting, "Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy", is apparently the best-loved of the pictures at the Tate, and one can well believe it. As a domestic scene it is intriguing and contained. But it has a wider meaning as a kind of jigsaw for what has become our own lost generation, the artists, and designers of the Chelsea of the Sixties. Hockney has had the *now* to be the one who has survived.

Boy wonder, star performer. He has always been so fluent an artist, so engaging and so nonchalant a personality, it has been too easy to see Hockney as a happening. This survey puts him, usefully, into another category which is that of the Yorkshire tradition of hard graft. The superb quality of the colour reproduction defines Hockney's own enormous technical experience. His mastery of technique after technique now allows him, it sometimes seems, the freedom to do anything he chooses. This reflects not only Hockney's own self-discipline, so delightfully opposed to the persona he adopted as soon as he reached London. It also has some bearing, which deserves investigation, on the nature of art

DAVID HOCKNEY
A Retrospective
By R.B. Kitaj et al.
Thames & Hudson, £29.95

training which was normal in a town like Bradford 30 years ago. Since childhood he has been phenomenally curious. The boy started reading Proust before he ever saw asparagus. Once, when I went to talk to him in Holland Park, at the tail-end of the Sixties, I found him engrossed in the problem of glass mountains. He was illustrating one of the Fairy Tales of Grimm. In graphic terms, how can you best convey a sense of glassiness? The technical possibilities entranced him. He is still, at 50, in the mood for magic mountains. Lawrence Weschler, in his essay, quotes Hockney quoting Herbert: "A man may look on glass." In his precision and the poise of his affections Hockney is himself a modern Metaphysical. It is his sense of distance, that fine judgement with which he places figures and objects in relation to each other.

You can skip the bibliographies, chronologies, and curatorial-academic verbiage all such books attract and start straight in on the colour plates, beginning with the first of Hockney self-portraits. In a sense each Hockney painting is a bit of a life history. The first one is in Bradford, with red line on the floor and a white teacup on the sideboard. "Contemporary" wallpaper. In 1954.

At one stage Hockney seemed to be obsessed with pairs of people. The art of the couple. This is no longer so. The most poignant of the images of the past few years are those of single people: the self-portraits in charcoal; the extraordinary photo-collages of his mother; the oil painting of Celia. Ah Celia! Celia Birtwell, designer



David and Stanley

Capturing the imbricated images of the image-maker and time traveller

of textiles, Hockney's friend for many years, that familiar fragile figure of the Swinging London period. Celia now looks (as we all do?) faintly blowsy, middle-aged. Besides the solitary, one sees Hockney's growing interest in groups, in class, in status. In statesmanship and gamesmanship: the diplomatic theatre of the British Embassy in Tokyo, for instance. His photo-collage *mise-en-scènes* repay attentive reading. They are wonderfully playful and ironic in their detail. Hockney's old love for the lettered his "Love Paintings" graffiti, resurges in "The Scrabble Game". Hockney lamenting Hockney. They are words for a joke poem: "POOL", "JETTED", "SOBS", "AGO".

Hockney has cast himself in the role of the outsider, the rootless Englishman in that literary tradition of Isherwood and Huxley, both of whom, ahead of Hockney, sought the solace of the Californian sun. At that time, as a solution, it seemed stimulating, modern. But California now has such overtones of nightmare that as a refuge it has become as passé as the Riviera.

For an artist as intelligent and critical as Hockney this poses an obvious dilemma, and it is perhaps one cause of the change of mood and senses: a turning away from that shimmering, ingratiating Californian scenery towards a kind of painting which is wilder, more demanding, more engaged. Beneath so much sophistication, he has always had a taste for Gothic overstatement, and a consciousness of lower middle-class morality which would not be out of place in the nonconformist chapels of Bradford. You remember that little, cryptic fairy tale, a favourite of Hockney's and subject of one of the most haunting of his etchings, "The Boy Who Left Home to Learn Fear".

Golden lads a world ago

FICTION

Isabel Raphael

THE TEMPLE
By Stephen Spender
Faber, £10.95A CANNIBAL IN NEW YORK
By Tama Janowitz
Picador, £10.95THE SWIMMING-POOL LIBRARY
By Alan Hollinghurst
Chatto & Windus, £11.95THE WEDDING
By Yann Queffelec
Translated by Linda Coverdale
The Alison Press, £10.95

Stephen Spender's "lost" novel of 1929 is called *The Temple*, in reference to the cult of the body beautiful that drew young men together in the period between the two world wars. It is openly autobiographical and tells how Paul, a young Oxford poet, visits Hamburg to observe the people and culture of the time. Greatly influenced by his friends Wilmot and Bradshaw (Auden and Isherwood), he finds himself at home in the homosexual society of the city. The novel is in two parts, the second, now dated 1932, following earlier hints of Nazi totalitarianism and brutality. The original manuscript, completed in 1931, was re-worked by Spender in 1986-87, and the result is uneven.

If it were genuinely a piece of juvenilia, it would be extraordinary for its perception and foresight; quite apart from the political aspect, there is some lovely writing which carries all the conviction of early impressions of people and places, and there is a beguiling naturalness in Paul's fumbling attempts at relationships. At 20, much clumsiness can be forgiven an aspiring writer of such sensitivity. But where does the old writing end and the new begin? Spender calls *The Temple*, as it is presented now, "a complex of memory, fiction and hindsight," which adds up to a fascinating document but not a very successful novel. It is rather a series of cameos strung together with the most tenuous narrative thread, self-conscious, over-serious, but intensely observant. After all, Stephen/Paul is a poet, and the quality of thought and its expression are clearly in evidence in Spender's unaltered 1929 poem printed at the end. A curiosity, to be read with awareness of its origin.

In *A Cannibal in New York* Mungu Yabba Mungu joins Candide and Crocodile Dundee and all the other innocents abroad in close encounters with a world unknown to our hero but all too familiar to the great reading public. Tama Janowitz's satirical extravaganza starts off promisingly in the South Sea island of New Burnt Norton (one of the more sophisticated jokes) where Mungu cultivates his yams amidst wives and pigs until the arrival of New York socialite Maria Fishburn. Ostensibly searching for a missing, presumed deceased, relation, she claims to have fallen in love with Mungu's photograph on the cover of the *National Geographic*.

Together they survive tropical jungles which prove considerably less hazardous than downtown Manhattan, where the crocodiles are manic dwarves and drug-pushing mafiosi. Mungu experiences the heady delights of life at the Holiday Inn, pizza parlours, and delicatessens, and graduates to the

cover of *Time* magazine as he prepares for his grand wedding to the whimsical Ms Fishburn. Like Cunegonde, Maria has a disconcerting habit of vanishing at moments of crisis, but Mungu's disarming optimism carries him through to the next set of adventures, all of which he describes richly, with occasional delightful infelicities of language and stilted 18th-century turns of phrase to recall Robinson Crusoe and the Noble Savage.

The misadventures of Mungu are very funny; and I hope that Andy Warhol, to whom the book is dedicated, lived long enough to relish its wit. It is too long, 285 pages to Candide's 144, which overloads the humour, but Ms Janowitz keeps the joke alive even when she moves into the sordid and the macabre. A writer with such vivid powers of imagination and observation and such a light hand with bathos — she is mistress of the involuntary chuckle — is a real find, and I wonder what she will turn to next.

I cannot for the life of me see what pleasure or profit is to be derived from *The Swimming-Pool Library*; yet I believe I am like most novel-readers in looking for one or the other at least in a work of fiction. This is a deeply unpleasant book, with page after page of lubricious and brutally explicit sex and characters who are predatory and vicious. Loveless betrayal seems like just deserts all round. If this is a lament for the Cities of the Plain, I for one shall not be tempted to look back.

The Wedding (Les Noces Barbare) has sold over a million copies in France, so there must be a market there for nightmare stories. This one begins with gang rape and moves through child abuse and neglect to arson and murder. I am appalled to see that it is being made into a film. Perhaps the camera's eye will pierce through the cynical indifference of Yann Queffelec's style, which is unrelentingly grim on the page, and invest this catalogue of horrors with a little humanity.

The Sport of Rings

Woodrow Wyatt

HORSE POWER
The Politics of the Turf
By Christopher R. Hill
Manchester University, £21.50

The Jockey Club, now merged with the National Hunt Committee, is a self-perpetuating oligarchy. Once the sole ruler of racing, today it is reduced to junior partnership with the Horserace Betting Levy Board, on which racing is dependent for its crucial marginal finance. Hill shows that the Jockey Club's decline is due to its own stupidity.

The Jockey Club was behind the Private Member's Act of 1928 which set up the Tote. Then bookmakers were confined to the racetrack and to credit betting; cash betting off the course was illegal. Jockey Club horse owners did not want the Tote monopoly they could have had because, unlike bookmakers, Tote pools could not give them special odds when their horses were running with a chance. Without that irresponsible venality there would have been a Tote monopoly, as in all other important horse-racing countries.

So the Jockey Club and racing everlastingly weep for their poverty, envying the higher prize money and luxurious racetracks abroad. A Tote monopoly could have provided the racing industry with around £130 million a year in place of the £25 million grudgingly provided from a levy on turnover by the bookmakers to the Levy Board. Instead the Tote, of which I am Chairman, has a licence to

operate Tote pools and sell the copyright of its dividends, the whole of which amounts to some 1% per cent of all the money gambled on horse-racing. This is rather short of a monopoly. Fortunately the Tote also owns betting offices (since the law was changed in 1972 permitting it to do so), and a sparkling credit business.

Christopher Hill suggests the Tote should be privatized. This would be fine, provided among other things that the money was not held off it, and that the increasing contributions, now in millions, which the Tote makes to racing were guaranteed, plus a system for ensuring substantial additions as Tote profits continue to rise. The author had all the racing papers of the

strange, abrasive Lord Wigg, ex-crony of Prime Minister Harold Wilson, who became second Chairman of the Levy Board in November 1967. It was he, sometimes with excessive brutality, who knocked the Jockey Club off its pedestal, and crushed its dream that the Levy Board would act as its agent to collect the money from punters via the bookmakers, and that the Jockey Club would decide how to spend it.

The account of the former Regular Army NCO routing the astonished autocrats of the Jockey Club is highly amusing. However the Club still retains control of the conduct of racing, which can never be wholly pure, but is as honest as can reasonably be expected in a sport which revolves

around gambling, with the temptations to bookmakers, jockeys, trainers, and owners considerable and unceasing. The Jockey Club must be praised as well for gradually learning to use the power of its prestige and authority more wisely, while opening its membership to people whose social background would hardly have got them through the door to see a Jockey Club official 50 years ago. Such members do not yet become Senior Stewards.

Christopher Hill praises the original and civilized Lord Howard de Walden, three times Senior Steward, as a leader in relating the Jockey Club's posture more to the present than to 1752 when it began. Lord Howard whose family have long owned de-

sirable chunks of London is one of the few British owners who can still breed and run horses in his lovely apricot colours to win the Derby as he did in 1985 and may do this year with Carmelite House (present odds 16-1).

It helps you get full enjoyment from this excellent book to be keen on racing. Many thousands are, and, despite farmer-type complaints that the prize money is too low, streams of new owners turn up yearly, more than replacing the departure of the disillusioned.

With sponsorship and attendances rising, and injections of cash from Satellite Information Services winging live pictures into the betting offices, racing has healthier (though still modest) prospects than for decades. The Jockey Club and the Levy Board are now in harmony. Sunday racing with off-course betting shops could arrive before the next century.

Sheer hype tripe

Victoria Glendinning

WOMEN AND LOVE
The New Hite Report
By Shere Hite
Viking, £14.95

A contributor to *Women and Love*, the third Hite Report on the sexual habits of Americans, suggests that being in love is a "socially acceptable psychosis". Not any longer it isn't — not after wading through 900 pages of what is mostly sheer tripe, beginning and ending with what is mostly puff from professors attesting to the brilliance, importance, scientific credibility, etc. of the work of Shere Hite.

Four thousand five hundred women "poured out their stories," some of them at book length, in answer to Hite's intimate questionnaire. We all know that women long to be loved, that being in love is hell most of the time, that being single, being lesbian, being married, and being divorced are all difficult in their different ways, that men are impossible, and women over-worked. We also know that women won't take so much crap as they used to, and more of them end their marriages rather than put up with it.

Hite has a long section on the injustice of the "emotional contract" between women and men. It boils down to the fact that women long to talk about themselves, and men don't

want to listen; but when men choose to talk about themselves they expect women to listen. So whether a man is withdrawn or over-dependent, the woman feels she is doing all the "emotional housework" as well as all the other sorts of housework.

"I feel I read my lover well, like a boring novel," says one woman, complaining that he does not even try to "read" her. Maybe he suspects that she's an even more boring novel than he is. Hite transcribes a letter from a man who suggests that white men are too often remote and unloving, a certain amount of privacy and distance is beneficial to a relationship, and that to insist on endless discussions of the details of one's life is childish. Hite condemns this as "vituperative".

Hite does not consider whether the problem is really between different kinds of

people, rather than between genders. The testimony of lesbians here shows how power-struggles and problems of communication can cause trouble even between the two loving women. Nor does she consider whether some of the more lurid narratives may perhaps be fantasies.

The sad part is that the "cultural revolution" hailed by Hite is a long time coming, and that this book won't do a lot to hasten it, though there are so many voices in it that any woman reading it will find her own echoed, somewhere. It's still a man's world, and Hite is right when she describes the damage done to women by Freudian analysis, which disregards the social and cultural factors that condition our expectations and behaviour.

Hite's trite commentary thrusts every other word between quotation marks ("Do older women have a problem 'finding men'?" and assumes that women's discontents are justified in every case, thus weakening her case and ours. We won't have grown up as feminists until we can criticize ourselves as well as the opposite sex. There are lots of awful men; but there are some awful women too.

NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

End of a Journey, by Philip Toynbee (Bloomsbury, £25).
Famine and Food Supply in the Graeco-Roman World, by Peter Garnsey (Cambridge, £25) Responses to risk & crisis.
The Boy Who Shot Down an Airship, by Michael Green (Heinemann, £10.95) Comic and elegiac Thirties' youth.
The Canonisation of Daniel Defoe, by P.N. Furbank & W.R. Owens (Yale, £20) Purging the inflated Defoe canon.
The Faith Healers, by James Randi (Prometheus, £13.95) Polemic on TV evangelists' snakepits of fraud.
White Boy Running, by Christopher Hope (Secker & Warburg, £10.95) Memories and reflections on the tragic comedy of SA.
Works on Paper, by Lucian Freud (Thames & Hudson, £20) If you can afford to have your portrait drawn by the best, choose this marvellous draughtsman of flesh and textures.

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THEATRE

LONDON

★ **THE BEST OF FRIENDS:** Dramatised correspondence between Shaw, a Lady Abess, and the director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, George Gielgud back to the West End stage. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 2653). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Tue-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 5pm, £5.50-£15.

★ **CURTAINS:** Award-winning play transferring from Hampstead; great cast led by Annette Crook, Alfred Lunt and Ralph Nossek, touching, shot through with humour, though the subject is how to help granny die. Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, SW1 (01-437 7783). Tube: Strand. Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8-10.15pm and 8.45-11pm, £3.50-£15.50.

★ **DIFFERENT GHOSTS:** Gary Stevens's surreal play, comedy opera, Homage to the great British Theatre. ICA Theatre, The Mall, SW1 (01-530 3647). Tube: Piccadilly Circus/Charing Cross. Tue-Sat 8pm, £4.50.

★ **LETITIA AND LOVAGE:** Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyacke waging eccentric war against the modern world in Peter Shaffer's new comedy. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3657). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.15pm, mat Sat 5-8.30pm, £7.50-£14.50. (D)

★ **THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK (LAURENCE):** Jean-Pierre Cassel and Jane Lapotse represent order and chaos in Jean-Claude Carrière's first stage play, performed in English and French. Arts and Crafts Institute, 17 Queensberry Place, SW7 (01-589 6211). Tube: South Kensington. English version Tue-Sat 8pm and 8.15pm, French version opening night Wed 7pm, mat Sat 2.30pm; French version March 1-5, 8pm (except opening March 3, 7pm), mat Sat 2.30pm, £4.50-£10.50.

★ **THE POSSIBILITIES:** See caption. Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, N1 (01-359 4404). Tube: Highbury & Islington. Opens tonight 7pm. Then daily 8pm (except March 7 and 14), £4.50-£7.50.

★ **SHIRLEY VALENTINE:** New Willy Russell play, outlining performance by Pauline Collins as the downworld housewife tempted by a Greek island. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 9567). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Sat 7.30-9.45pm, mat Wed 2.30-4.45pm, £8-£13.50.

★ **SOUTH PACIFIC:** Gemma Craven and Emily Beckett in magnificent staged revival. Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street, W1 (01-839 5969). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat 2.30pm, £8.50-£20.

★ **WORD-WATCHING:** Answers from page 22. GALIOT (b) The turpentine or resin that, when heated, becomes hard and brittle, the stems of certain plants, of unknown origin, perhaps connected with the Old French *garlic*, a variety of plant.

FENELPLAIN (c) A land surface so worn down by denudation as to be almost a plain; from the Latin *planus* almost, and plain.

NESSOT (c) The anthropologist's term for an Indonesian from the Greek *anisos* an islander, *nessos* an island.

CHARMEUSE (a) A soft satin material made originally of silk, but now also of synthetic fibres; originally a trade name.

★ **THIS ISLAND'S MINE:** Philip Osment's play for Gay Sweatshop weaves together the lives of half a dozen refugees in search of different sorts of home. Theatrical, 16 Chelsea Street, WC1 (01-639 8270). Tube: Goodge Street. Wed-Sun 8pm, £4.50-£5.

★ **THIS CITY SHE'S A WHORE:** Rupert Graves and Susan Sylvester play the incestuous lovers in Ford's masterpiece of betrayal and revenge. National Theatre (Olivier), South Bank, London SE1 (01-437 2222). Tube: Waterloo. Previews tonight until March 2, 7.15pm, £5.50-£12. Then in rep.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queens Theatre (01-224 1166). ★ The Business of Murder: Mayfair Theatre (01-629 3036). ★ Cats: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ The Business of Murder: Mayfair Theatre (01-629 3036). ★ Cats: New London Theatre (01-405 0072).

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Screen firsts on the south coast

Starting tonight, every cinema venue in Southampton joins hands to present the third Southampton Film Festival - possibly the only one in Britain organized entirely by a local city council. The event kicks off with the British premiere of Barber's *Barfly*, in which Mickey Rourke and Faye Dunaway (above) stagger drunkenly through the least angelic quarters of Los Angeles as the Beat writer Charles Bukowski and his equally boozey companion, Southamp-

ton audiences will get previews of other new releases from Australia, *Travelling North* with Leo McKern as an engineer who takes his young lovebird to an isolated tropical paradise from Japan, the social satire *Tempo* from America, *Cop* with James Woods, and John Schlesinger's *The Refresher*, in which black magic stalks New York. Some of these would reach Southampton's cinemas anyway; but other films need all the spotlight they can get, such as Godard's

King Lear, or the latest works of the British iconoclast, Derek Jarman (*The Last of England*) and Peter Wollen (*Friendship's Death*). The festival ends on March 6 with *Little Boy*, a worthy and painstaking Dickens adaptation; and the writer/director, Christine Edzard, is one of several film-makers joining in the festivities. Details of all screenings and events from the Film Festival Box Office, Tourist Information Centre, Southampton (0703 39236). Geoff Brown

FILMS

★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**

90 DAYS: Canadian comedy about two buddies in search of fortune, bliss. Giles Walker directs (50 min). Cannon Cinema (01-352 5086). Progs 2.00, 6.25, 8.55.

★ **DRAGNET** (PG): Levitt attempt to parody the Films TV police series, with Dan Aykroyd and Tom Hanks. Directed by Tom Mankiewicz (105 min). Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45.

★ **SHATTOFF-UPON:** A comedy production of Stephen King shocker set to music. Until March 5, then goes to Broadway.

★ **REPTILANTHROPY** (PG): Tragicomic treatment of the Stalinal nightmare from Georgian director Tengiz Abuladze, capturing the life and death of a vicious small-town bureaucrat (150 min). Cannon Cinema (01-352 5086). Progs 1.30, 4.55, 7.50.

★ **ROBOCOP** (R): Violent, cold-blooded fantasy in Peter Weller as the police officer reconstituted as an indestructible robot. Directed by Paul Verhoeven (103 min). Cannon Cinema (01-352 5086). Progs 1.30, 4.55, 7.50.

★ **MOSS MEMORIAL** In the Abraham Moss Memorial Concert Series: Symphonies of Wind Instruments and Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht* are heard from the Hall of the Royal College of Music. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). 1.15pm, £1.50.

★ **WALTON, VIV: Vaughan Williams's "London"** Symphony is heard from the RPO under Vernon Handley, then the Brighton Festival Chorus and the Brighton Festival Orchestra. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-222 1061). 7.30-9.10pm, £4-£20.

★ **ENTRANCE FILMS:** The Entr'acte ensemble presents an evening of films including *Drama Among the Puppets*, *La Conquête* and *Le Monde*, with music by Satie, Debussy, Florent Schmitt and Poulenc.

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CONCERTS

LUNCHTIME

★ **ISABELLE FLORY:** After Mozart's *Sonata K 304*, this violinist plays Frank's *Andantino* concerto, Saint-Saëns's *Havens*, Debussy's *Jeux* with the Flaxen Hair, Massenet's *Madrigal*, Monty's *Casals*, all with Robin Collin at the piano. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). 1.15pm, £1.50.

★ **THE WINNER:** David Wehr, last year's winner of the Palma O'Connell Piano Competition, solos in Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto. Before that the LSO is conducted by Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos in Schubert's "Unfinished".

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OPERA

★ **JENUFA:** Yuri Lyubimov's outstanding production with powerful performances from Eva Randova and Ashley Putnam. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1065). 7.30-10.20pm, £1-£20.

★ **EUGENE ONEGINE:** Festival of David Pountney's original production for Sadler's Wells, sung in Russian, conducted by Sir Alexander Gibson and with Sergei Lektorsky in the title role. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (01-222 1061). 7.30-10.15pm, £1-£20.

★ **BITTER SWEET:** As last Judge's new production of Noël Coward's classic opera in London, Ann Mackay takes the role of Sarl. New Sadler's Wells Opera, Rosemary Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 8918). 7.30-10.15pm, £1-£20.

★ **HILLIARD HIGHLIGHTS:** The Hilliard Ensemble gives a recital of early sacred music, monastic song from Aquitaine, motets by Dufay and Ockeghem, and Lully's *L'Homme Armé* mass. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). 8pm, £4-£24.

★ **WALTON, VIV: Vaughan Williams's "London"** Symphony is heard from the RPO under Vernon Handley, then the Brighton Festival Chorus and the Brighton Festival Orchestra. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-222 1061). 7.30-9.10pm, £4-£20.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.30 **Confess** AM.
6.35 **Gi Lamb** in *Nightclub Daze* (b/w).
7.00 **Breakfast Time** with John Stapleton and Jeremy Paxman. Includes regional news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. Plus the latest news from the Winter Olympics in Calgary.
8.30 **Laverne and Sherry**, American comedy series starring Cindy Williams and Penny Marshall.
8.55 **Regional news** and weather.
9.00 **News** and weather followed by *Open Air*, presented by Eamonn Holmes.
10.00 **News** and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r).
10.25 **Children's BBC**. Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Play School* (r) and *The Wombles* (r).
10.55 **Five to Eleven**. David King with a reading 11.00 **News** and weather followed by *Storm in a Teacup* (b/w) and *Highly Dangerous* (b/w). To vote ring 061-814 0424.
12.00 **News** and weather followed by *Storm in a Teacup* (b/w) and *Highly Dangerous* (b/w). To vote ring 061-814 0424.
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Michaela Burck 1.30 **Neighbours**. Chris Lays plans to re-unite Dan and Eddie 1.50 **Going for Gold**.
2.15 **Open Air** viewers this morning have chosen one of three films: *Lilacs in the Spring* (1954, colour and b/w), a musical fantasy directed by Herbert Wilcox, starring Anna Neagle and Erol Flynn; *Storm in a Teacup* (1957, b/w), a comedy directed by Victor Saville set in a small Scottish town starring Vivien Leigh and Rex Harrison; and *Highly Dangerous* (1980, b/w), a spy thriller directed by Roy Benda starring Margaret Lockwood and Dane Clark. 3.40 **Cartoon**.
3.50 **The Chiswick House** (r). 4.00 **Wacky Races** (r). 4.10 **Jackanory**. Michael Meloney with part four of *Nestle Gabbit's* *Stoody Half* 4.30 **Around the World with Willy Fog**.
4.55 **Newsround** 5.05 **Blue Peter** 5.35 **Neighbours** (r).
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. Weather.
6.35 **London Plus**.
7.00 **Top of the Pops**.
7.30 **EastEnders**. Carmel tries to reassure Sue about her fears. (Celexa)
8.00 **The World Inside**. A report from Judith Hann in China on a campaign to vaccinate new-born babies against liver cancer.
8.30 **Mastermind**. The specialist subjects are: European history 1815-1914; the novels and short stories of J.D. Salinger; pop music 1955-70; and the life and works of P.G. Wodehouse.
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Martyn Lewis and Philip Hayton. Regional news and weather.
9.30 **The Fall and Rise of Reginald Penrin**. Reggie is offered a job with Amalgamated Aerosols but success still seems to elude him. Starring Leonard Rossiter (r).
10.00 **Question Time**. Sir Robin Day's guests are Shirley Goodwin, general secretary of the Health Visitors Association, and MP's Michael Heseltine, Michael Portillo and Sir Russell Johnston.
11.00 **Film 88**. *The Last Emperor* and *Stalder* are among the films reviewed (r).
11.30 **Let's Dine in Concert**. The *Communards*.
12.00 **Weather**.

BBC2

- 6.55 **Open University**. Until 7.20. 9.00 **Ceefax**.
9.35 **Daytime on Two**: basic Spanish 9.52 **Tudor ships** and seamen 10.15 **Science**: tracks 12.00 **Attempting a Brain** problem on a smaller scale 11.00 **Pigeon racing** 11.15 **The fast food industry** 11.35 **Why some teenagers want to be famous** 12.05 **Electronics** 12.25 **What Britons eat** 12.50 **Coping with change** 1.30 **The young** 1.38 **A West Indian song** 2.00 **News** and weather followed by a trip down a coal mine.
2.15 **Dancing in the Rain**. Ballroom dancing in Blackpool (r).
3.00 **News** and weather followed by *Olympic Match of the Day*. Action from the medal round of the ice hockey championship. 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather.
4.00 **Catchword**. 4.30 **Holiday 88** (r). (Celexa)
5.00 **Olympic Grandstand** including the men's giant slalom.
6.35 **The Rose and the Ring**. An animated version of *Thackeray's* fairy tale.

BBC1

- 6.30 **Wales** 6.55-7.00 **Wales Today** 7.00-7.20 **Wales Today** 7.20-7.30 **Wales Today** 7.30-7.40 **Wales Today** 7.40-7.50 **Wales Today** 7.50-8.00 **Wales Today** 8.00-8.10 **Wales Today** 8.10-8.20 **Wales Today** 8.20-8.30 **Wales Today** 8.30-8.40 **Wales Today** 8.40-8.50 **Wales Today** 8.50-9.00 **Wales Today** 9.00-9.10 **Wales Today** 9.10-9.20 **Wales Today** 9.20-9.30 **Wales Today** 9.30-9.40 **Wales Today** 9.40-9.50 **Wales Today** 9.50-10.00 **Wales Today** 10.00-10.10 **Wales Today** 10.10-10.20 **Wales Today** 10.20-10.30 **Wales Today** 10.30-10.40 **Wales Today** 10.40-10.50 **Wales Today** 10.50-11.00 **Wales Today** 11.00-11.10 **Wales Today** 11.10-11.20 **Wales Today** 11.20-11.30 **Wales Today** 11.30-11.40 **Wales Today** 11.40-11.50 **Wales Today** 11.50-12.00 **Wales Today** 12.00-12.10 **Wales Today** 12.10-12.20 **Wales Today** 12.20-12.30 **Wales Today** 12.30-12.40 **Wales Today** 12.40-12.50 **Wales Today** 12.50-1.00 **Wales Today** 1.00-1.10 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TGWU faces rerun of poll

By Roland Rudd

The election of leading left-wingers to the executive of Britain's biggest trade union is to be challenged on Saturday at a crucial union meeting which has the power to call for a new ballot in 14 key seats.

Union officials yesterday held a series of confidential meetings with senior Labour MPs at the House of Commons to put forward their evidence of electoral irregularities.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, is known to be watching the situation closely. He is extremely concerned that, at a time when he is pushing for important reforms of his party's policies, the influential 1,241 million block votes of the Transport and General Workers' Union could prove a big obstacle.

Mr Kinnock was hoping that the ruling soft-left and centre-right coalition, which staunchly backs his proposals to overhaul Labour's policy under the present two-year review, would be returned to power.

Members of the soft-left coalition, who lost control of the union's executive to Militant-backed hard-left in last month's election, are pinning their hopes — for a new election of the 14 key trade group ballots — on Saturday's meeting of the union's Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Mr Ron Todd, general secretary, who is the union's official returning officer, is now almost certain to have his report on the conduct of the election challenged at Saturday's meeting.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee, which is still controlled by the soft left, is the official custodian of the election and therefore has the authority to order a new election.

The scale of the hard left's victory has taken union and Labour officials by surprise.

The controversy centres on the trade groups. Accusations of ballot irregularities include abnormally high returns in the hard-left controlled regions One, Six and 11, representing London and the South East, the North West and Ireland.

Votes from these regions alone were sufficient to unseat incumbent soft-left candidates in the trade groups.

The ruling soft-left executive point to the result in the Vehicle Building and Automotive Group as an example of their suspicions that the election was marred by ballot irregularities.

Mr Richie Rowlands, the Ford's convenor in Halewood, lost to Mr David Osborn, a former member of the Communist Party who is convenor at Austin Rover in Longbridge. Moderates cannot believe that the Ford workers in the London Dagenham plant could have voted for a man working in a different car plant, although hard-left supporters believe the accusations are ill-founded.

Seeking the face behind the skull



Headliners: Richard Neave (left) with Dr John Prag. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Richard Neave's studio is not a place for the squeamish. Lined with shelves of human skulls and other remains, only the unwise open drawers without checking the labels (Peter Davenport writes).

The room in the University Medical School in Manchester, behind the dissecting suite in the Department of Anatomy, has lately become the focus of worldwide attention. Mr Neave is part of a three-man team which has perfected the technique of putting flesh on the bones of history by recreating human faces.

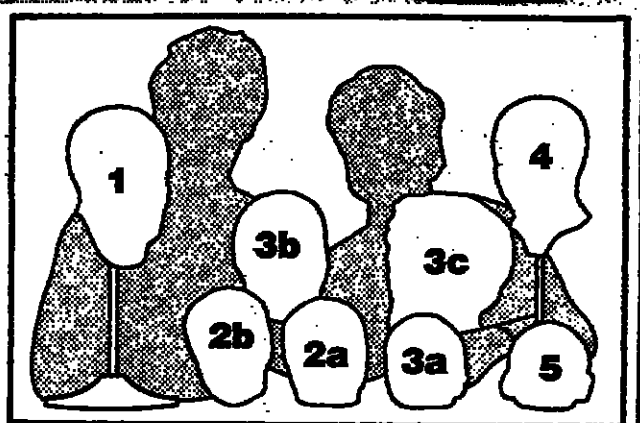
It is a skill which has brought vividly to life such diverse characters as a mummified Egyptian girl and an Iron Age man found in a Cheshire peat bog, as well as giving a dramatic face to Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great.

The technique also has more practical applications. When the final victim of the

King's Cross fire could not be identified Neave was asked to recreate a face from the charred remains, and it is his work which stares out from posters seeking to put a name to the body.

Mr Neave, who is Assistant Director of Medical Illustration at Manchester University, has with him on the team Dr John Prag, Keeper of Archaeology at Manchester Museum and Dr Jonathan Massey, a senior lecturer in anatomy at Bristol University. Between them, they have the expertise in archaeology, art and the workings of the human body that enables them to create a face from a bare skull.

A series of pegs are first placed on the skull to determine the thickness of flesh, then a series of careful measurements are used to determine muscle structure and the shape of mouth, eyes and nose. The team can also call on the skills of plastic surgeons.



1. King's Cross fire victim; 2a & 2b. Skulls with pins showing skin depth; 3a. Reconstructed skull of Lindo Man; 3b. Face of Lindo Man; 3c. Plaster cast of Lindo Man; 4. Philip II of Macedonia; 5. Cast of mummified head

Irish police talks

Continued from page 1

agenda had been fixed for the next session and therefore it could not be confirmed that the two police chiefs would attend.

The statement by Mr King had "taken them by surprise".

However, the Irish spokesman agreed with Mr King that yesterday's meeting was constructive. The Irish side welcomed British government plans to outlaw job discrimination in Northern Ireland.

● **Guardsman remanded:** A teenage Grenadier Guardsman was scheduled to spend last night in Belfast's Crumlin Road prison after being charged with the manslaughter of Mr McAnespie, aged 24, who was shot dead at Aghnacloy, Co Tyrone, as he walked to a Gaelic football match just across the border in Co Monaghan.

Private David Jonathan Hadden, aged 18, appeared at a court in Cookstown, Co Ty-

rone, where the resident magistrate, Mr Robert Porter, refused an application for the soldier to be bailed into military custody.

The usual practice of Northern Ireland courts when faced with regular soldiers on serious civil charges, is to bail them into Army custody in recognition of the risks they may assume to face in civil jails.

A bail application to the Northern Ireland High Court was postponed until today.

● **Arms find:** An Irish Republican Army arms cache in North County Dublin contained the biggest batch of high powered plastic explosives discovered to date, the Garda announced yesterday.

The Garda also confirmed that ammunition stored in boxes had Libyan markings. The haul consisted of 600lb of Semtex plastic explosives, 30 Kalashnikov rifles, 64 grenades, 12 RPG rockets and 31,000 rounds of ammunition.

The British billionaires

Continued from page 1

the Mull of Kintyre) was worth £79 million at the last count, although royalties from his records — 460 are registered with the Performing Rights Society — are estimated to be running at £70,000 a day.

As well as having the consolation of being £1 million richer than the Duke of Rutland, he is also well ahead of the personal wealth of Elton John (£42 million), Phil Collins (£22 million) and George Harrison (£14 million). Mick Jagger is comfortably in the mega-rich league with around £19 million.

Including the Queen, there are just 12 women in Britain's richest 200. They include Anita Roddick, the founder of Body Shop, with £22 million; writer Barbara Cartland, £10 million; and Joan and Jackie Collins, who are worth £15 million between them.

The youngest person in the list is former typist Sophie Mirman, aged 31, who, together with husband Richard

THE RICHEST 50 IN BRITAIN

The Queen	£3,340m	Harry Hyams	£240m
Sir John Moores	£1,700m	Sigmund Berger	£210m
Garry Weston	£1,500m	Guinness family	£200m
Duke of Westminster	£1,400m	Asli Nedir	£200m
Sir James Goldsmith	£1,000m	Rothschild family	£200m
Sainsbury family	£1,000m	Schroder family	£200m
Vestey family	£1,000m	Marquis of Bath	£198m
Robert Maxwell	£700m	Paul Hamlyn	£198m
Cayzer family	£600m	Forbes family	£180m
Clark family	£500m	Pilkington family	£170m
Gerald Ronson	£500m	Duke of Northumberland	£168m
Viscount Chelsea	£410m	Tiny Rowland	£150m
Swire family	£400m	Smith family	£150m
Princes Charles	£340m	Keswick family	£147m
Duke of Buccleuch	£300m	Kleinwort family	£145m
Bamford family	£300m	Duke of Atholl	£143m
Lewis family	£300m	Richard Branson	£130m
Pearson family	£290m	Fenwick family	£130m
Viscount Portman	£290m	Sir Terence Conran	£120m
David Thompson	£290m	McAlpine family	£120m
Alan Sugar	£280m	Morison family	£120m
Wills family	£270m	Earl of Seaford	£120m
Lord Howard de Walden	£250m	Thomson family	£120m
Stephen Robin	£250m	Octav Botner	£110m
		Burrough family	£110m

Ross, started the Sock Shop chain and is now said to be worth £30 million.

Money expert Sue Thomas said she had worked out a person's wealth on the basis of the value of their property, land holdings, shares and other assets.

"The information has come from all sorts of sources," she said. "In working out the Queen's wealth we took into account her stamp collection,

Commons sketch

Taking the low road to tedium

Some days are horribly dull, and these days tend to begin with questions to the Secretary of State for Scotland. Suddenly, the Parliamentary record, normally a scratchy but mercifully speedy 78, is played at 16rpm, and the traditional cut and thrust of debate becomes a slow carve.

Mrs Ray Michie, the Liberal MP for Argyll and Bute, made it clear that it is not only debate that is slower where Scotland is concerned. Her constituents, she said, had been waiting for the promised new hospital in Oban for a full thirty years. She had now discovered that the authorities had not even bought the site for it yet. Mentioning some other new hospital in Scotland, the Minister urged her to rejoice.

Elsewhere, there was little scope for rejoicing. Scottish Members on either side give the impression of loathing one another, but they somehow choreograph their loathing so as to diminish its potential for drama. They do not hurl abuse at each other, so much as pass it grudgingly over the counter with an annotated bill attached. "Given that there are only five Scottish Conservative members present —" began Sir Russell Johnston (Lib, Inverness Nairn and Lochaber) and Mr Neil Hamilton (Cons, Taitton) could be heard to mutter. "But there are only five", while a bespectacled Conservative backbencher turned around and counted one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight Scottish Conservative members present and then shouted "Eight — you can't count".

Each Opposition Member ends his speech with the words "... shows the Government doesn't care" and each Conservative Member ends his speech with the words "shows the Opposition doesn't care". These mantras are preceded by routine impotence. "The latest manifestation of whining and whinging from Labour MPs in Scotland," said a Tory backbencher. "Take your hand out of your pocket," said a Labour backbencher. "This squallid conspiracy," said a Conservative. "This heavy-handed dictatorship," said a Socialist. And so it went on. These remarks tend to concern diverted bus routes in Strathclyde or the

siting of a new car park in Aberdeen.

Even during Scottish Questions, the prospect of a statement on the EEC Sixth Directive on VAT from the Economic Secretary to the Treasury was hardly something to keep the heart pounding. Mr Teddy Taylor attempted to drum things up a bit by suggesting that VAT might soon be placed on gas, electricity, water and even sewage, and Mr Michael Foot worried about the imposition of VAT on books and newspapers, but even his becardiganed gesticulations could detract little from the prevailing air of boredom.

With VAT having run its course, Mr David Winnick rose to bring in a bill to ensure Parliamentary scrutiny of the security services. Mr Winnick (Lab, Walsall North) usually has something worth saying, and when he doesn't, he is pretty good at telling jokes. But when normally jovial and quick-thinking MPs are given time to prepare important speeches, they often surrender to forgotten impulses towards solemnity and cliché. Mr Winnick told only one joke — a repeat of an Edward Heath howler from a few weeks ago and failed to raise a titter.

Observers began to long for the next act. The next act emerged as Mr John Major making a lengthy speech on Public Expenditure. Also, Mr John Major is to laughter what Mr Frankie Howard is to World Economics. Though comedy appeal is not the be-all and end-all in the assessment of senior politicians, it does much to keep the eyes open.

Sometimes, notices outside the Chamber can lend hope that some form of excitement can still be found in Westminster. Yesterday, there were seven or eight such notices, including "Baroness Trumpington Urges Pesticide Operators to Apply for Certificates of Competence", a Press Notice from Poyllor Materion Cymreig on Investment in Wales and "Resolution on Scottish Coal Industry Passed Unanimously by National Executive Committee". There was just one sign of sun on the horizon: "Norman Fowler to Visit USA".

Craig Brown

Israel split on shuttle

Continued from page 1

which would be granted limited autonomy and administered jointly with Jordan. Jordan's public position on this possibility has so far been to reject the idea out of hand.

Even before he begins his talks tomorrow morning with Mr Shultz, Mr Shamir is displaying pre-negotiation jitters caused largely by his refusal to accept an international conference as a forum for peace negotiations, and his rejection of any land-for-peace barter.

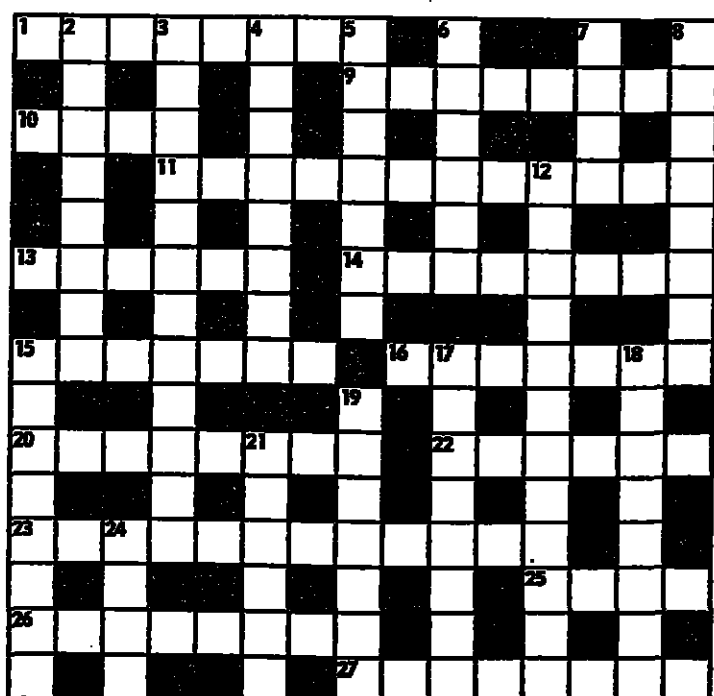
Mr Shamir told yesterday's inner Cabinet that his understanding of American plans

now were a far cry from his perception of them last month, when he had considered them favourable to Israel.

Putting a brave face on the many problems, Mr Yossi Beilin, political director-general of the Foreign Ministry, managed to sound optimistic about the outcome. "I am far from thinking it is an impossible mission," he said.

Both Arabs and Israelis now realised, he said, that "our biggest enemy is extremism and not each other. Israel realized the present American Administration was very, very friendly and it is better to try now than wait for a new one."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,601



- ACROSS**
- Hit a few balls — pass without much trouble (4,4).
 - Girl and cleric have no right to move away (8).
 - Sweet kid (4).
 - Scrambled egg — I'll hand it to someone important (7,5).
 - Reached right inside cave (6).
 - Disturb badger's burrow — it features in two French articles (8).
 - Without a cent, finally — owing money was an essential part (7).
 - A little fish cake? (7).
 - A gremlin is disposed to — the lead (8).
 - Double over, say, in pain (6).
 - Show off your initiative and join the staff (12).
 - Employed you and me and another chap (4).
 - Where to find 24 different ailments (4,4).
 - Footballer is activist about small country times (8).

- DOWN**
- Dish charged to the Observer (6-2).
 - It's hard to track down unusual white pillows (4-1-3-4).
 - Text message against filer, removing tail (4,4).
 - Train soldiers about to join up (7).
 - Old woman soldiers hailed as "Great Chieftain" (6).
 - Report exactly (4).
 - Feeling — not much to start with, but feeling (8).
 - Player will be informed (2,3,7).
 - Until the secret's revealed, cat is secure (2,3,3).
 - Contrive to have England batting all the time (8).
 - Diverge when upset and distressed (7).
 - Object that's needed by footballer (6).
 - Jack shortened international conversations (4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct? By Philip Howard

- GALIPOT**
a. A cargo boat
b. Turpentine
c. A medicine pot
- FENEPLAIN**
a. A black-and-white postcard
b. Course Shakesley cloth
c. Worn down land surface
- NESLOT**
a. A nasal polyp
b. A dweller by Loch Ness
c. An Indonesian
- CHARMEUSE**
a. A satin-like material
b. A tea caddy
c. A call girl

Answers on page 20, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,600

SUNDIAL SPREAD
DANTE SPREADWELL
AKKERS
WHERRY GREYTOP
AERIAL
TONGA TEAGARDEN
TERRACE
PERIODIC ARTIST
LOOKSHARD INVITED
RESERVE NONAGES

The clue to 22 across in yesterday's puzzle should have read: "casements, opening on the foam of — seas" (Keats) (8).

Solution to Eliminator Puzzle No 17,595

MUMFORD BRASS
O G I E H O P Y
UNTUNED APOCOPE
SEAL IDOTELL
ESTOP CHOKERORE
T T W S G
REGUANTY LINES
A G M G I S E T I
P A S A L M S E T E R
P E R S O N A L I S M
L D V G I C A P
E P I C E N T A P M E L I A
A G R A P O L I A
F R I P T O R D E S S O O K

WEATHER

Eastern Britain will be generally cloudy with wintry showers, but much of England and Wales will be dry with some sunny spells. Most central and Southern Scotland will start dry with some sunshine but cloud and rain already over Northern Ireland and West Scotland will spread slowly east. It will be rather cold everywhere but more so in the southeast. Outlook: Cold with wintry showers. Night frosts.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	15-20	SE	100	
Amman	10-15	SE	100	
Baghdad	15-20	SE	100	
Bombay	25-30	SE	100	
Buenos Aires	15-20	SE	100	
Calcutta	25-30	SE	100	
Cairo	15-20	SE	100	
Colon	25-30	SE	100	
Hong Kong	20-25	SE	100	
London	10-15	SE	100	
Los Angeles	15-20	SE	100	
Manila	25-30	SE	100	
Medan	25-30	SE	100	
Mumbai	25-30	SE	100	
Paris	10-15	SE	100	
Rangoon	25-30	SE	100	
Seoul	10-15	SE	100	
Singapore	25-30	SE	100	
Taipei	15-20	SE	100	
Tokyo	10-15	SE	100	
Yokohama	10-15	SE	100	

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	SE	100	
Edinburgh	5-10	SE	100	
Manchester	10-15	SE	100	
Birmingham	10-15	SE	100	
Cardiff	10-15	SE	100	
Exeter	10-15	SE	100	
Gloucester	10-15	SE	100	
Leeds	10-15	SE	100	
Liverpool	10-15	SE	100	
Nottingham	10-15	SE	100	
Sheffield	10-15	SE	100	
Sunderland	10-15	SE	100	
Wolverhampton	10-15	SE	100	
Wrexham	10-15	SE	100	

* Denotes figures not available

THE POUND

Country	Rate	Bank
Australia	2.55	2.55
Canada	1.25	1.25
Denmark	11.80	11.80
France	16.40	16.40
Germany	3.30	3.30
Hong Kong	7.80	7.80
Italy	1,930	1,930
Japan	160.00	160.00
Netherlands	3.60	3.60
Sweden	11.10	11.10
Switzerland	2.00	2.00
USA	1.54	1.54
Yugoslavia	200.00	200.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 103.5 (January)

London: The FT Index closed down 8.7 at 1,877.

New York: The Dow Jones Industrial average closed at 2,870.

AM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 6.02 pm to 6.24 am
Edinburgh 6.07 pm to 6.44 am
Manchester 6.07 pm to 6.44 am
Preston 6.25 pm to 6.44 am

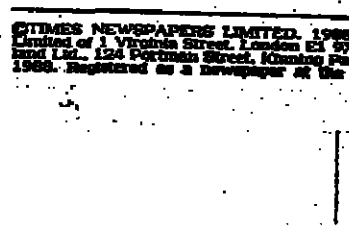
LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 pm to 6 pm, 6C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 pm, 2C (36F). Humidity: 6 pm, 61%
per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0hr. Bar. mean sea level, 6 pm, 1017.5 millibars—29.53in.
1,000 millibars—29.53in.

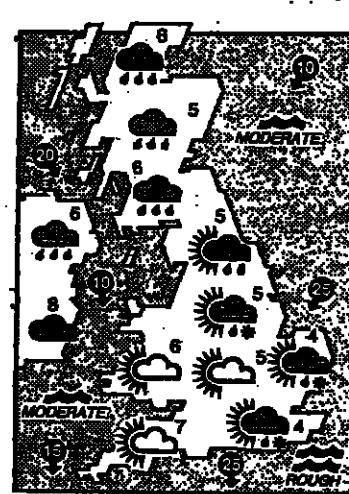
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 pm to 6 pm, 6C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 pm, 2C (36F). Humidity: 6 pm, 61%
per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0hr. Bar. mean sea level, 6 pm, 1017.5 millibars—29.53in.
1,000 millibars—29.53in.

NOON TODAY



PM



TEMPERATURES AT MIDDAY YESTERDAY: C, cloud; F, rain; S, sun

Area	C	F	Area	C	F
Belfast	6-11	43-51	Guernsey	6-11	43-51
Birmingham	6-11	43-51	Inverness	6-11	43-51
Bristol	6-11	43-51	Jersey	6-11	43-51
Cardiff	6-11	43-51	London	6-11	43-51
Edinburgh	6-11	43-51	Manchester	6-11	43-51
Exeter	6-11	43-51	Newcastle	6-11	43-51
Gloucester	6-11	43-51	Nottingham	6-11	43-51
Leeds	6-11	43-51	Sheffield	6-11	43-51
Liverpool	6-11	43-51	Sunderland	6-11	43-51
Nottingham	6-11	43-51	Wolverhampton	6-11	43-51
Sheffield	6-11	43-51	Wrexham	6-11	43-51
Sunderland	6-11	43-51			

Full Moon March 3

Sun: 6.58 am, 5.32 pm

Moon: 3.00 am, 9.55 am

Full Moon March 3

TEMPUS

Low looks after the institutions

There is nothing like getting your retaliation in first. In an unusual move, Scotland's biggest domestic chain of supermarkets, Wm Low, has launched a rights issue that at first sight smacks just a little of a poison pill exercise.

It plans to raise the £31.6 million it wants to clean up its balance sheet, dented by its bank-financed expansion drive, through the sale of convertible preference stock whose conversion rights will improve should a successful takeover bid emerge.

What should also be said, of course, is that no bid has yet arrived, nor, according to the board has any approach been made. But speculation has raged around the company for years and certainly will not die down now that Barker & Dobson has been thwarted in its ambition to acquire Dee Corporation.

The Low board is as aware of Mr John Fletcher's interest as anyone, but it is really being as Machiavellian as some might think with its fund-raising plans? Closer inspection bears out the company's argument that it is following a trend rather than setting one.

It is clear that the investing institutions have been putting their corporate foot down over the rights of convertible stockholders in a takeover situation.

Growing institutional hostility was both Granada and

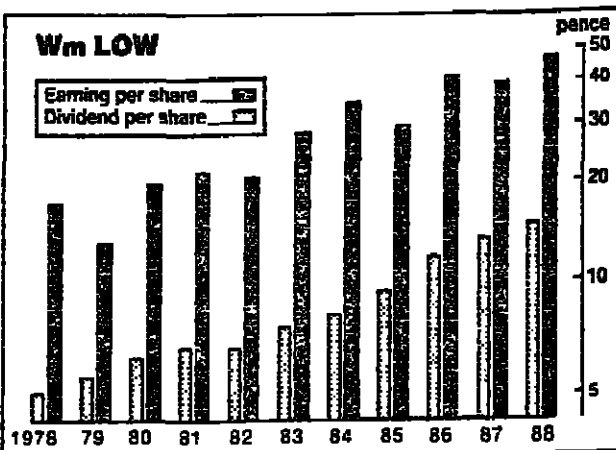
Electronic Rentals Group recently launched convertible issues with bid-adjustable terms. And they certainly succeeded in squeezing a good deal out of Atlantic Richfield, after fears that its offer for Tricentrol's convertible might be unfairly low.

It was Warburg who drew up final terms for Tricentrol, and it is Warburg which is behind the Low issue. Given that Low and its advisers are still not confident enough in the market to trust an equity rights issue, the convertible terms are a natural progression.

They offer converting stockholders shares at 640p between 1990 and 2002. But if a bid turns up before 1993 the stock will qualify for more shares. If it arrives on Day One after the EGM, the effective price will be 585p, rising towards 640p in 1993 to compensate the holder for lost income rights.

In the convertible market the arrangement is seen as a vital, and entirely logical development. The stock itself is seen as attractive, offering a 9 per cent yield.

But do not expect it to save Low from a bid. As one of the few remaining independent regional food retailers of any size, along with Wm Morrison Supermarkets, and with a current store opening schedule that promises accelerating profits over the next couple of years, there could be worse times for a bidder to pounce.



Hanson

Preparing profit forecasts for dark horses like Hanson is hard at the best of times, but analysts had their work cut out when assessing Lord Hanson's progress in the first quarter.

Not only was there no comparative figure — quarterly reporting is a new introduction to appease US employees and shareholders — but acquisitions had as usual changed the group's shape.

Kaiser Cement was not included in last year's figures and the industrial group Kidde made a maiden contribution for part of the quarter only. Together they added £5 million.

Currency effects, depressed profits by up to £10 million as

Mayne Nickless

If the investment community is still a little vague about who and what is Mayne Nickless, then pencil in March 14 when all will be revealed. Melbourne-based directors will be in London to give a City update after the November listing of this Australian freight transport, security and computer servicing group. Meanwhile, there is a positive set of interim figures to chew over.

They show a 61.7 per cent equity accounted pretax profit advance to Aus\$75.5 million (£30.56 million) in the half

the dollar weakened by 27 per cent during the year.

The stock market crash also left its mark. At the end of September Hanson had current assets of £80 million which were worth at least £10 million less three months later. The classification of the group's sizeable investment in Midland Bank as a fixed asset allowed it to avoid taking what could have been double that loss on the chin.

The integration of Kidde is going well. Cash flow is strong pushing gearing well below 30 per cent. This will fall further on share conversions this month and disposals already announced. It is feasible that by the year-end, Hanson will have substantial cash balances.

With a borrowing capacity of several billions of pounds Hanson has plenty of scope to

return to the acquisition trail.

Whatever investors' underlying feelings about Hanson's management style, they have tended to stay with the shares when a sizeable deal is on the cards. Thus on the back of Hanson's rapidly improving balance sheet such outperformance may be in prospect.

However, the imminent conversion of what amounts to 7 per cent of the equity could overhang the shares even though heightening interest from US fund managers may pick up the slack.

Forecasts for the year of £800 million put the shares on a p/e of 9 times, a 15 per cent discount to the market. The shares continue to provide good trading opportunities.

year ended January 3, and margins on the higher turnover up from 5.3 per cent to 7.6 per cent.

The tax charge is a 77 per cent higher, but success always has a price, and there was still a respectable increase at the net earnings level to support a 23.5 per cent rise in the half-time payment.

Mayne has benefited from various recent acquisitions and expansion moves, but even so the strongest percentage growth was seen in the British express freight and armoured car operations.

Several opportunities in Britain and North America for further expansion in these fields are under consideration, and with the facility of a London quote, and backed by its own financial muscle, Mayne Nickless may soon be back on the takeover trail.

Further afield, the group trades profitably in China. But Canadian air freight operations are still tough. Australia still dominates the profits table, though given the group's international ambitions that slice of the pie will diminish.

After last year's pretax profits of Aus\$95.6 million, which excludes that of associates, Mayne should be capable of moving forward to the Aus\$235.5 million profit level this year to put the shares at 188p yesterday, down 7p, on a prospective ratio of 9.7.

STOCK MARKET

Plessey jumps 7p on talk of stake-building

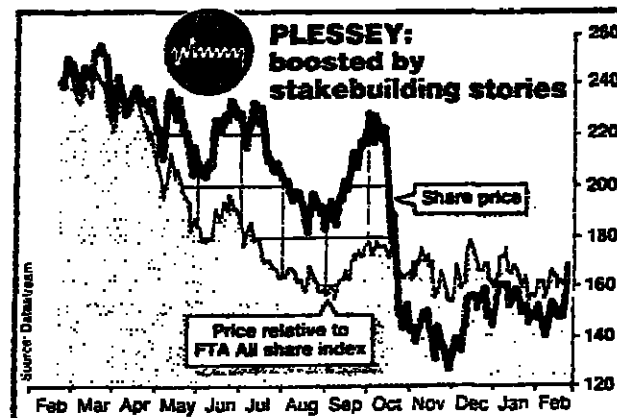
It now looks almost certain that someone is trying to build a stake in Plessey, one of Britain's best-known electronics groups, where a staggering 15 million shares changed hands yesterday as the price jumped 7p to 165p.

The news comes hard on the heels of last week's report from the group of a fall in third-quarter profits from £45.1 million to £37.1 million and will no doubt be worrying

little evidence to suggest a recession is on the way. Unless there is a pick-up in business soon, the chances of extending the pre-Budget rally appear slim.

Government securities made a firm start encouraged by news about the economy and the firmer pound which has eased fears about another rise in base rates.

But gains of about £9 at the longer end boiled over to-



Sir John Clark, the chairman, and rest of the Plessey board.

Early talk claimed that Siemens, the cash-rich Munich-based electronics group, had acquired a 5 per cent stake and might consider making a full bid.

The speculation was also fuelled by reports that SBCI Savory Miln, the broker, was a large buyer of the shares for one of its European clients.

Similar stories did the rounds in September, after Siemens said it was thinking of bidding for a British com-

Robert Fleming has become the sixth market-maker to start dealing in the shares of British Vita, which rose 1p to 433p. Its first survey of the company recommends the shares as a buy. Next month's figures are expected to show pretax profits up from £19.8 million to £28.2 million.

But the market took the view that it would not be allowed to acquire companies such as Plessey which is heavily involved in British defence work for the Government.

Plessey is still negotiating with GEC, its rival, for the merger of their telecommunications businesses. GEC made an unsuccessful attempt to acquire Plessey in December 1985, but the offer was referred to the Monopolies Commission.

STC, the British electronics group, and American Telephone and Telegraph of the US, were also mentioned as possible predators.

A spokesman for Plessey said last night: "We never comment on rumours."

Sir John quelled City criticism about the recent figures with a bullish statement on prospects.

The order book is 15 per cent up on last year at £1.55 billion. Analysts claim this might be enough to attract a bidder.

Plessey's preliminary results are due in May with Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, looking for pretax profits of £170 million against last year's £184.2 million.

The rest of the equity market spent another lacklustre day with share prices struggling to hold on to small gains. Turnover remained at a low ebb with just 338.1 million shares traded on the Seaq computer by the close of business.

The FT-SE 100 share index fluctuated in narrow limits throughout the day and failed to draw any strength from renewed trading in New York. It eventually closed 2.2 up at 1,760.1. The narrower FT 30 share index finished 6.7 down at 1,417.0, having been almost 8 points higher earlier.

It has not gone unnoticed among traders that both Wall Street and Tokyo have recouped most of their losses since the October crash, but London has underperformed its rivals.

Investors are still reluctant to commit themselves ahead of next month's Budget despite forceful arguments about a sound economy and

wards the close and were replaced with small losses of £1 in places.

ICI fell 12p to £10.60p on nervous selling ahead of today's annual results.

Dealers are hoping that a respectable set of figures will help boost sentiment and coax investors from the sidelines in the run-up to the Budget. Analysts are looking for pretax profits of £1.3 billion for 1987 against £1 billion the previous year.

Marley, the DIY and tiles group, could only muster a 5p rise to 155p despite reports that BPB Industries, the plasterboard manufacturer, had bought a small stake in the shares and might consider launching a full bid for the rest. The market takes the view that this should be good news for BPB Industries which ended the day with a rise of 11p to 271p.

It regards BPB as a one-product company and the joint venture between Borel, the Australian group, and Redland to manufacture plasterboard in this country in direct competition will have done little to allay the City's fears. But a bid for Marley would mean that the group is now making strenuous efforts to diversify.

The clearing banks' divi-

Kwik-Fit Holdings, the tyre and exhaust supplier, advanced 9p to 193p after the Metropolitan Research General Investment, an independent researcher, published a bullish report. It expects substantial growth at Kwik-Fit and says the shares should be bought now for long-term investment.

dend season continued to make grim reading with Barclays revealing a drop in pretax profits from £895 million to £339 million and modest losses at its Barclays de Zoete Wedd securities arm.

But Barclays finished the session 9p higher at 483p on hopes that the worst may be over.

Lloyds, which concludes the season today, advanced 10p to 271p. It is expected to show a year-end loss of £300 million-plus after making a provision of £1 billion against Third World debts at the interim.

Midland, which revealed the biggest-ever loss by a high street bank of more than £500 million last week, improved 3p to 393p.

NatWest, which reported on Tuesday that its County NatWest investment banking subsidiary had incurred a loss of £116 million last year, also rebounded on hopes of better things to come and closed the session 11p higher at 561p.

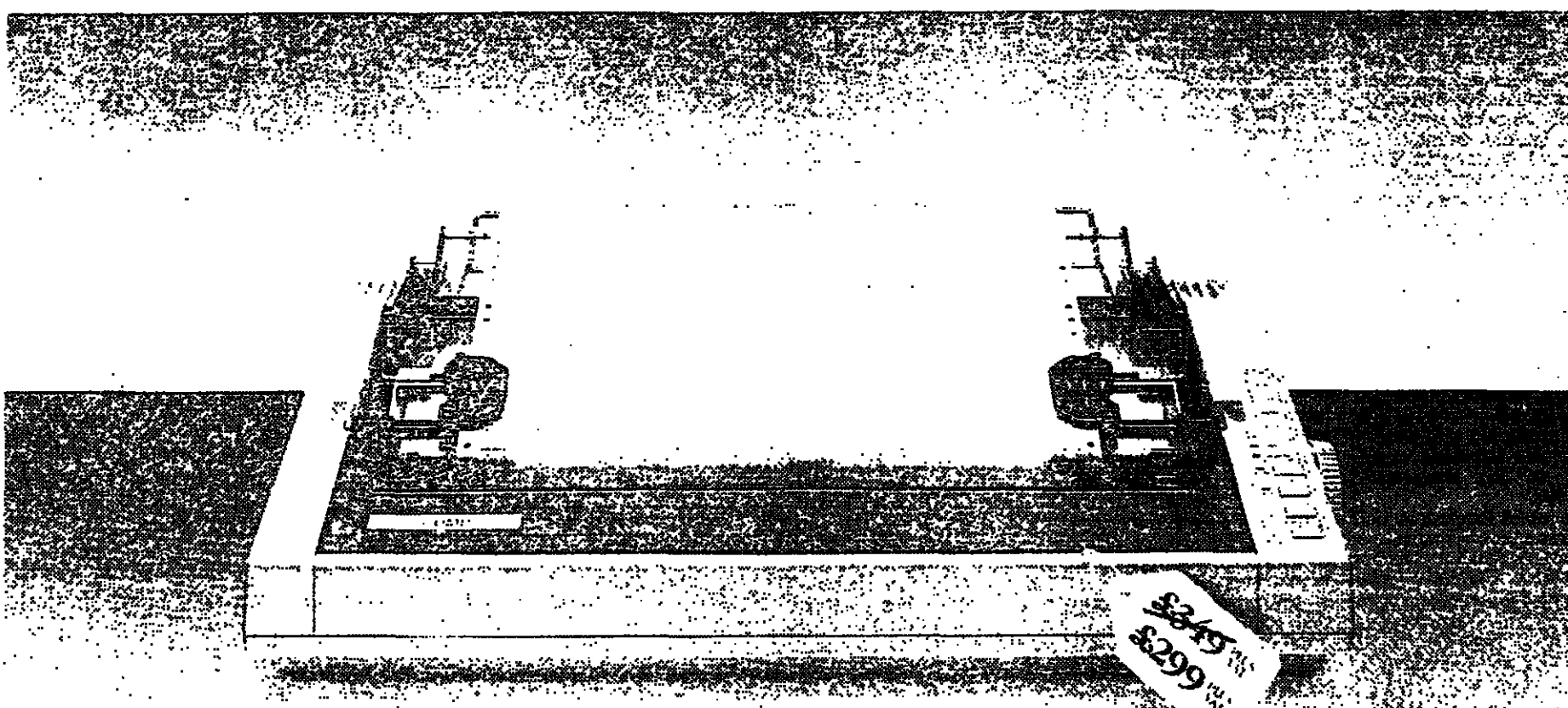
Wellcome continued to meet with profit-taking after its recent strong run and finished 3p lighter at 445p. Reports from the US claim that Smith Klein, one of its rivals in the fight against AIDS, is testing an AIDS diagnosis kit which can detect symptoms of the disease much quicker than normal blood tests.

Wall Street, page 26

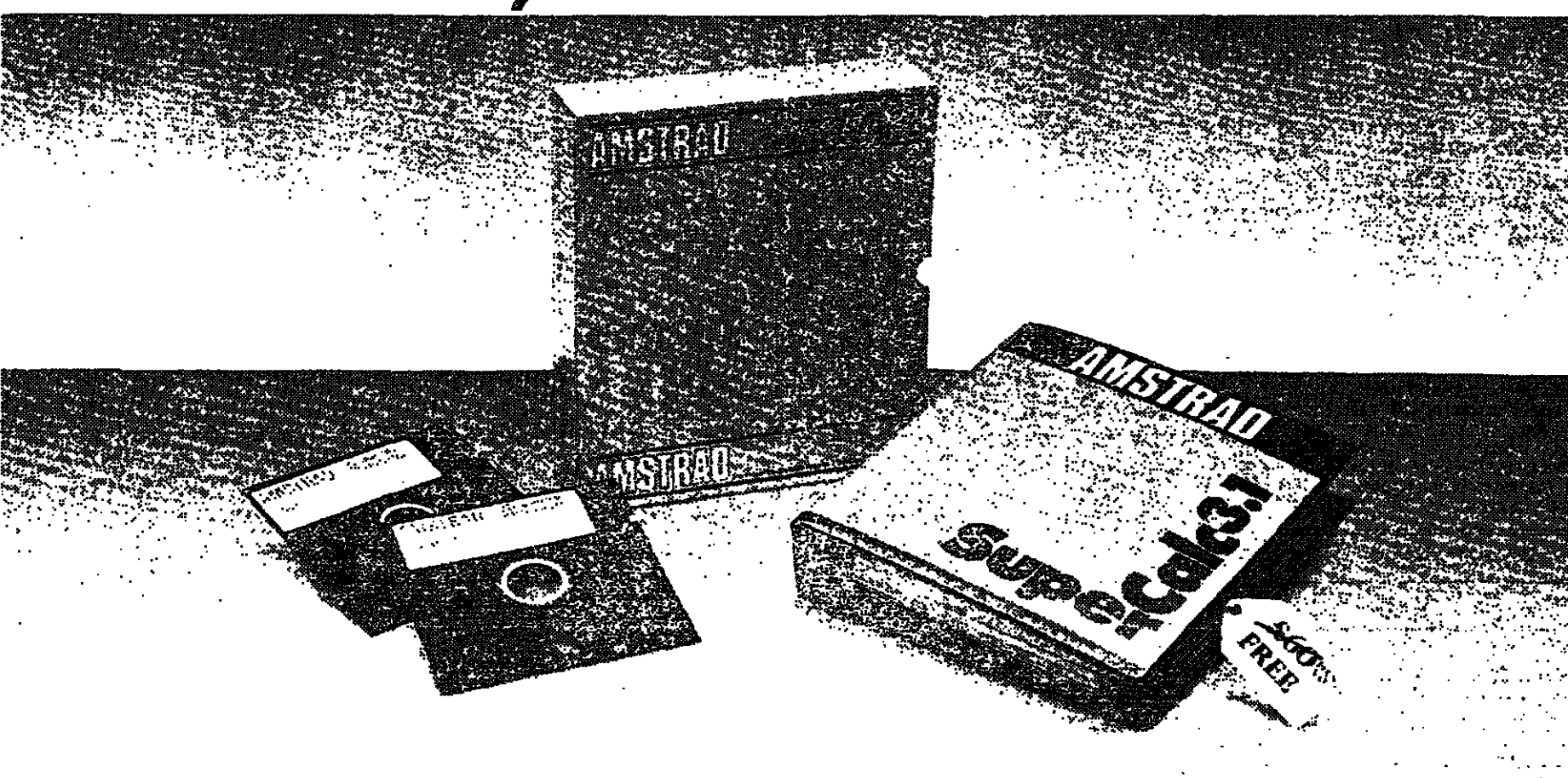
Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey 87	Coats 1,255	Land Sec 2,470	Rowntree 181
Ad-Lyns 81	CU 547	Lloyds 122	Royal Bank 328
Amrad 1,588	Cong Gold 877	LSG 833	Royal Ind 1,813
ASDA 1,345	Cookson 283	Lloyds 4,747	Sainsbury 888
AB Foods 47	Courtaulds 825	Lorinor 2,413	Sainsbury 578
Anglo 942	Dalrymple 438	Lucas 1,007	Seon & N 1,541
BAA 97	Daw 686	Magnet 459	Sears 343
BET 1,228	Diwans 600	MAS 5,186	Sedgwick 730
BIR 401	SCC 784	Manover Cm 81	Shell 2,112
BAT 602	Emergence 1,094	MERC 754	Shel & N 443
Barclays 3,882	Ferranti 2,028	Metal Box 292	STC 1,593
Bass 584	Fleura 1,376	Midland 1,270	Stan Chart 385
Beecham 387	Gen Acc 1,117	NatWest 2,254	Stewart 132
Bentley 330	GEO 1,631	Nest 1,591	Sun Alliance 235
BICC 132	Glaxo 1,291	Nm Food 354	T & N 279
Blue Arrow 677	Globe 62	P&O 231	Tarmac 803
Blue Cross 386	Granada 1,289	Part 257	Tate & Lyle 236
BOC 674	Grand Met 1,405	Peatson 133	TBS 4,680
Bovis 677	GUS A 78	Pillington 2,245	Tesco 1,159
Boots 1,448	GUS B 39	Plessey 13,587	Thorn EMI 125
Br Aero 582	ICI 1,087	Presidential 208	Tristar 1,072
Br Airways 1,028	Guinness 3,087	Roca 7,865	Unilever 1,891
Br Comm 889	Hamm A 7	Rix Hovis 154	Unilever 1,891
Br Gas 6,102	Hamm B 11,254	RSC 123	Unilever 1,891
Br Ind 7,738	Hawthor 326	RSC 123	Unilever 1,891
Br Telecom 3,438	Hawley 525	RSC 123	Unilever 1,891
Brinkl 42	Hillson 1,503	RSC 123	Unilever 1,891
Burns 1,327	ICI 1,087	RSC 123	Unilever 1,891
Byron 1,442	Jaguar 1,140	RTZ 1,805	Wills Fab 793
C&W 1,811	Lauro 851	R-Fluor 518	Woolworth 1,204
Caebury 1,833	Ladbroke 1,281	Rothmans 410	Equities page 23



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De Benedetti 'defeated' in battle over La Générale

From Jonathan Brande, Brussels

A powerful alliance of French and Belgian companies yesterday claimed to have a majority holding in Société Générale de Belgique and to have defeated the takeover bid by Signor Carlo de Benedetti, the Italian businessman.

In a joint statement, the French Compagnie Financière de Suez, and Belgium's Assurance Générale said they and their partners had control of 52 per cent of La Générale's shares.

Suez alone holds 27 per cent of the huge diversified holding company, while a Belgian and Luxembourg group led by AG holds 16 per cent. The rest of the partnership is made up by two French shareholders, COE and Compagnie Industrielle des Hauts de France.

The Belgian partners do not include M. André Luyten, who previously headed an international consortium set up to rival Signor de Benedetti.

Under what was described as a "firm partnership agreement," the French companies have agreed to sell some of these holdings to the Belgian group to ensure they hold a capital share equal to the Suez group. The price is to be negotiated.

None the less, the partnership does not appear to leave control of La Générale entirely in Belgian hands, although it does prevent an Italian takeover.



Claiming victory: Maurice Lippens (centre) of AG, with Patrick Ponsolle and Gerard Worms (right) of Compagnie Financière de Suez in Brussels yesterday

The Franco-Belgian alliance not only denied it was planning to dismantle La Générale, as Signor de Benedetti has claimed, but said it would promote the "dynamic development of Société Générale de Belgique".

The statement said the alliance would take account of La Générale's "specifically Belgian nature," giving priority to efficiency and profitability. "This project implies the

growth of the group," it added. M. Patrick Ponsolle of Suez said the Franco-Belgian partnership was ready to discuss strategy with all the shareholders, including Signor de Benedetti if he was ready to do join them.

"But we will have to discover who wants to help Société Générale de Belgique and who wants to be an obstacle to its development," he said, apparently hinting

that Signor de Benedetti was not interested in developing the company.

Signor de Benedetti's Paris based-holding company Cerus last night issued an angry reaction to the announcement by the Suez-AG group.

Cerus said the alliance's claim to have 52 per cent of Société Générale was just a "legal and mathematical concoction, trumped up at the last minute."

BAT bid for Farmers backed

By Colin Campbell

Shareholders in BAT Industries yesterday approved their group's ambitious \$4.2 billion (£2.38 billion) plan to try to buy Farmers Group, the US insurance concern, though the cold war between the bidders and the target company continues.

Mr Patrick Sheehy, the BAT chairman, launched his multi-million dollar bid for Farmers Group in mid-January, but to date it has consistently refused to meet BAT officials to discuss the concept.

Farmers, the Los Angeles insurance group which BAT sees as an additional leg to its current worldwide operations which take in tobacco, retailing, financial services and paper, has rejected a series of approaches by letter.

Farmers executives have argued their case to the American investment community that the bid is not welcomed and that Farmers is worth more than the \$60 a share BAT is offering. Against this background, Farmers says no purpose would be served by a meeting.

BAT in turn has told Farmers that it will propose a resolution at Farmers' shareholders meeting that the Farmers board be required to discuss the deal with BAT.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Sir Nicholas softens up the small investor

A war of attrition has been launched against the two-week account system operated by the Stock Exchange. Just two weeks after the Governor of the Bank of England suggested the account system should be examined, the chairman of the Stock Exchange, Sir Nicholas Goodison, has cast doubt over its future.

In a letter to Lord Young, Sir Nicholas says that "for some years" the Exchange has been considering changing the system, and that a staff working group has been looking at this question carefully for the last six months.

The account system enables bargains closed during set two-week periods to be transacted for one commission and with lower stamp duty. It simplifies settlement procedures because bargains each way within the same account do not involve delivery of stock. It is a tool of the short-term operator, or the genuine investor who has a short-term change of mind or circumstance. The system is more good than bad, and provides the market with liquidity and about 12 per cent to 13 per cent of Stock Exchange volume (much less by value).

That is business which the City cannot afford to lose, for if it does the securities houses will have to raise commissions elsewhere to compensate.

Sir Nicholas tells Lord Young there is very little that the Stock Exchange can do about the rising level of brokerage charges to smaller clients. The abolition of fixed commissions was the fuse which led to Big Bang, and Sir Nicholas reminds Lord Young that the decision on the level of charges lies with the firms "and no longer with us."

Service to the private client has been a bone of contention which has been well-chewed since last October, when it is accepted that the securities houses failed to deliver all that was demanded of them. But the problem goes all the way back to Big Bang, and Sir Nicholas reminds Lord Young that he gave a warning way back in 1983 that commissions would rise at the lower end if the fixed scale was abolished.

Sir Nicholas also blames the Financial Services Act for the rising level of commissions. He seldom misses a chance to have a knock at the Act and the body which oversees its implementation, the Securities and Investments Board. After all, as the chairman of the SIB, Sir Kenneth Berrill, pointed out in an interview with *The Times* two weeks ago, the SIB has climbed into the beds of the Stock Exchange and other institutions.

Sir Nicholas says it is a grave pity that the complexity and cost of the new regulatory system laid down by

the Act "will inevitably further increase the cost of providing a service to private investors and therefore the charges which they will be asked to pay".

Surely the Office of Fair Trading should be looking at this. Over to you, Sir Gordon Borrie.

Keynesian alternative

One can, perhaps, forgive the National Institute of Economic and Social Research a brief glow of self-satisfaction. For the first time in many years, say the Keynesian loyalists, the macro-economic issues facing the Chancellor in the coming Budget have been discussed largely in terms of demand management.

Although the Government has always made clear that the level of borrowing in any particular year must be decided in the light of the circumstances of the time the medium term financial strategy is looking increasingly irrelevant. Mr Lawson said in his Budget last year that a public sector borrowing requirement equivalent to 1 per cent of national income was a reasonable benchmark, but few people are now arguing for a PSBR as high as £4 billion which that would imply.

Whether it is right to go as far as the NIESR and to avoid any tax cuts is much more debatable. Both the Institute's forecast and its policy prescriptions have a familiar look. As usual the Institute sees gloom and doom ahead. In 1988 the economy is expected to grow by 2.9 per cent and the balance of payments deficit to increase to about £4.2 billion compared with the Treasury's £3.5 billion. But in 1989 nemesis strikes and growth falls to 1.9 per cent with the deficit increasing to £6.4 billion.

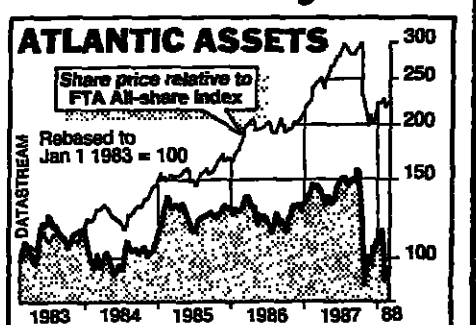
To forestall this fate the Institute reaches for its customary dose of devaluation. The combination of a high real exchange rate and buoyant consumer demand at home is not, it believes, sustainable. It may not be. But year in and year out the economy has surprised the Institute by doing better than expected.

Undoubtedly there are dangers in the present situation with little sign of a slowdown in consumer spending and a more adverse trading environment in the outside world. The pound is more likely to be lower than higher a year from now. But the rapid rise in productivity has so far enabled industry to compete more effectively abroad and supply a higher proportion of consumers' wants at home than models of the economy based on past experience have predicted. Given a suitable degree of caution Mr Lawson should be able to go on outwitting the National Institute's computer.

High noon for Ivory

The crucial meetings in Ivory & Sime's ambitious plans for reconstructing three of its investment trusts take place today and passions are running high. For Ivory & Sime, the complex scheme has a great deal riding on it in terms of form and substance. The Edinburgh group's glossy image would take a considerable dent were it unable to persuade enough holders to approve. A failure might also be costly, if it eventually led to more draconian solutions such as liquidation or unitization of the trusts.

Yet there is a basic issue which has so far been obscured by the natural reluctance of financial men to indulge in public displays of dog eat dog. Those few critics who have been prepared to let their hostility emerge into the cold light of day have tended to talk of the novelty and complexity of the scheme. Privately, many are simply fed up with the



recent performance of the Ivory & Sime managers. Our chart speaks for itself. Uncommitted investors have many options under the reconstruction schemes and should make up their mind whether one or more is sufficiently attractive for them to back the proposals. Those with fundamental objections on performance grounds will find it much harder to vote in favour.

Gulliver eyes hotel sector

By Michael Tate

Jacksons Bourne End, the Buckinghamshire shoe components and property company where Mr James Gulliver and his associates have just taken control, has plans to acquire more properties, including developments in the hotel and leisure sector.

Mr Gulliver, commenting on Jacksons' trading for the nine months to end-December, said yesterday it had the managerial and financial resources "to profitably exploit the opportunities available".

Jacksons made pretax profits of £523,000 in the nine-month period against £383,000 for the previous full year, with a fine performance from Stamford, the shoe components business, while good progress was made in developing the investment properties. But a much heavier tax charge has left earnings per share lower at 16.1p against 16.7p.

Share and option dealing provisions of £704,000 made at the interim stage have been trimmed after some disposals last month, but extraordinary items still total £523,000, including the £43,000 cost of the deal that brought Gulliver in, leaving the business with a £280,000 attributable loss.

This year has started satisfactorily at Stamford, says Mr Gulliver, and the company has recently won planning permission for a mixed industrial and office development on the three-acre site at Bourne End. Development of the Cresser estate at High Wycombe is ahead of schedule.

The group, now run by Mr Robin Howard, who came in with Select Country Hotels and Mr Gulliver, is looking for a finance director.

Pensions chief urges reduction in integrated securities houses

By Colin Narborough, Eastbourne

The integrated securities houses have become "greedy" and their numbers should be cut, the National Association of Pension Funds 1988 Investment Conference was told yesterday.

Mr John McLachlan, chairman of the NAPP's investment committee, began the three-day conference with a hard-hitting speech in which he attacked the deteriorating services brokers were offering, the poor quality of research, and declining interest among older security salesmen trapped by their golden handcuffs.

Mr McLachlan saw some unexpected winners and losers, among the largest securities firms, since deregulation. Some not expected to survive have done so, while stronger candidates had faltered.

"But we need a further reduction - I feel that the integrated houses have become greedy. They want to deal only at the full spread, only when they have arranged

the other side in what used to be termed a "put through," and they take a commission," he said.

The City climate did not appear healthy and white flags were in evidence everywhere. But that was to be expected as turnover had been built up to an over-generous level and there had been an inevitable shift of power after Big Bang in October, 1986.

Mr McLachlan said that all was not gloom. The stock market dealing system was generally working well and SEAQ, the automatic quotation system, was reasonably accurate and made dealing less painful than the pension funds thought it would be.

The computerized system made it possible to instantly trace signs of insider trading and speeded up the process of getting wrongdoers into court.

Commissions had also declined, with the rate for most institutions at 0.2 per cent, except for very large deals, a

reduction of 40 per cent. And this saving had fed straight through to the funds, he said.

While more investment research was now available to fund managers, the problem was quality. Mr McLachlan said presentation in most cases might have improved, "so all this poor advice looks jolly".

More research, more salesmen, more activity, however, meant settlement difficulties, while market-making absorbed capital, making broking a much costlier business than hitherto. The sudden drop in revenues had naturally made the business much more precarious.

For market-makers losses in some stocks had become horrendous, but it would be the pension funds picking up the bill in the form of rights issue from a financial conglomerate needing to establish its financial base, Mr McLachlan said.

He noted that back offices

USM date for Hughes

HT Hughes, the Portsmouth waste management, demolition and transport group, is seeking a USM quote following the placing of 4.6 million shares at 64p each.

Hughes Group will be capitalized at £11.78 million, and dealings are expected to start on March 3. Pretax profits have grown from £67,000 in the 1983 financial year to £909,000 for the year ended February, 1987. The forecast for the current financial year is

for profits of £1.35 million.

The issue comes to market on a prospective price earnings ratio of 11.85, and with a prospective gross dividend yield of 4.82 per cent.

The group has expanded into the allied activities of insulation services, commercial vehicle bodybuilding and skip manufacture, and has been granted a franchise for a commercial vehicle dealership.

Gold prices tumble

World gold prices fell sharply in all leading centres yesterday following selling pressure from central banks and producers, and sell recommendations by American chartists.

The London gold price closed at \$436 an ounce, its lowest level in almost a year, and down by \$6.25 on its previous closing level.

Other precious metals followed suit, with silver 4p

weaker at 354.75 an ounce, and the free market platinum price down by nearly £4 a ounce.

Bullion markets have in recent weeks been unsettled by fears of a world glut as supply overtakes demand as new mines increasingly come on stream and the increased pattern of gold loans. Sentiment for gold has been further undermined by more encouraging news on the inflation front.

Snitch in time saves Ivan

Disgraced arbitrator Ivan Boesky could be in for a hard time in prison. "A snitch is not a popular man in any jail," warns John Ehrlichman in an open letter to Boesky in the March edition of *Manhattan* magazine. Ehrlichman, who spent a number of months in a minimum-security prison because of his activities in the Watergate scandal, advises Boesky to bend over backwards to help his fellow inmates. "The word will get around quickly and people will begin to look out for you in nice ways," he writes, "and you may need some public relations work of that kind, because you are a snitch." In fact, Ehrlichman thinks that the problem could be so bad that he advises Boesky in the letter to "do everything possible to secure a contract with the government that deals with the problems arising from your snitch status... hold out for a comfortable little nest away from any prison, perhaps on a military base." But if he does end up in a regular prison and finds life with the other inmates less than comfortable, then Ehrlichman recommends that he tries as hard as he can to obtain a job in the prison sewage plant. "A friend of mine had that job and he considered it to be the best in the place..." says Ehrlichman.

● Seen on a badge worn by a Harvard Business School student: "Eagan knew, but he forgot."

CITY DIARY IN BOSTON

Legal aid from judge

A glimmer of hope perhaps for Ernest Saunders, currently contesting his legal bills. In a number of bankruptcy cases all over the US, judges have of late been granting lawyers' fees and refusing reimbursement for certain expenses. In one massive Chapter 11 court case an angry judge ordered, mid-trial, that no more attorney payments be made until

the end of the case. In two years the defence lawyers alone had clocked up a bill of \$12.2 million, described by the judge as "bordering on the utterly ridiculous." Another bill of \$21,000 for a smaller case was recently cut in half by a judge on the grounds that they "had performed very little substantive work." The tide could, at last, be turning.

Street of woe

If it is any consolation to all those who have been made redundant in the City in the aftermath of the crash, Wall Street-watchers are expected to see as many as 60,000 job losses in the US financial capital before the end of June. Some 15,000 redundancies have been reported already,

with the same number again estimated to have gone unreported. "We are half way there," says one job hunter. "The next 90 days are going to be hell to find a job in financial services in New York." While bond traders and analysts are said to be having particular problems in finding employment, it is not impossible. Harriette Weiss, a director of the outplacement group Hay Carter Consultants, says, "We are starting to see demands for skills that centre around control, order and systems. It is the same thing that general business experienced some 10 or 15 years ago when they could not hire accounting people fast enough." A specialist in high-technology recruitment says that there is still demand but "not at the pay levels they have become accustomed to". Systems people who had been paid \$250,000 a year plus bonuses previously are now being offered about \$80,000, he says.



The stout survivors

Bain & Co, the Boston firm of management consultants, seems to have come through the Guinness scandal relatively unscathed. While the subsequent loss of the Guinness account must have left a large, if temporary, hole in the fee income of the company's London office, Clint Collins at the American headquarters tells me that business in London is still growing. "The firm continues to do well," he says. "It was just one of those things." The firm still competes with its rivals to attract the prized Baker Scholars from the nearby Harvard Business School but says that the days when students were offered astronomical amounts - as much as \$200,000 - if they accepted a job offer on the spot are long since gone. "We haven't done that for years," says Collins. "We do consider recruitment very important, however, devoting a lot of attention and resources to it and attempting to build up a relationship with those people that we think are best suited to us at the end of their first year - but with no other incentives on offer than a salary at the going rate." There is some consolation for the Harvard students, however: the going rate is rumoured to be a minimum of \$65,000 - not bad for a first job.

● Despite its reputation for being a share-owning democracy, some seven out of 10 households in the United States do not own any stocks or shares directly.

Carol Leonard

FKB's Soviet advertising coup

By Mary Dejevsky

A pioneering agreement that will place British advertising and marketing skills at the service of Soviet producers and exporters was signed in London yesterday. One of its effects could be to brighten up Soviet life by bringing Western-style advertising hoardings to Soviet streets for the first time.

The agreement, between the British marketing services group Francis Killingbeck Bain International and Vneshtorgreklama, the state advertising agency under the Soviet Chamber of Commerce, is the fruit of a year's exploratory discussion followed by six months of concerted negotiation, conducted mostly in Moscow. The director of Vneshtorgreklama, Mr

Yuri Demidov, flew to London for the signing ceremony.

The deal provides for a consortium - formed between FKB and the new product development consultancy, Craton Lodge and Knight Group - to manage marketing, advertising and new-product development for Soviet state firms operating through the Chamber of Commerce. The consortium also gains rights to market outdoor advertising to Western clients.

The British group will also advise Soviet firms on how to redesign and present their products (which have hitherto had an unenviable reputation for poor design and shoddy workmanship) for the Western market. At the same time, two officials from

Vneshtorgreklama will be seconded to FKB for two years to learn the business.

Both sides were reticent about the money involved, although Mr Rod Laps, the managing director of CLK, said the target for business in the first year "went into six figures" and was calculated in pounds.

If that target was reached, he said, the plan was to set up a joint stock company in a year's time. Because of its shortage of hard currency, the Soviet Union prefers such joint deals.

This arrangement, between a model of modern Western commercial practice and what is effectively a branch of the Soviet state bureaucracy,

would have been inconceivable even five years ago, and is a reflection of the change in Soviet attitudes to foreign trade. Vneshtorgreklama has itself recently been revamped and transferred from the Soviet foreign trade ministry to the Chamber of Commerce.

The seeds of the agreement were sown, however, in an entirely traditional way for Anglo-Soviet trade: through personal contacts. Mr Laps has a consuming interest in chess, through which he made contact with Russians and learned of the potential for commercial co-operation. Vneshtorgreklama hopes that the agreement with FKB/CLK will be followed by similar deals with agencies in Italy and Finland.

No Sun seat for S African

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Donald Gordon, head of the South African-based Liberty Life group, is no nearer gaining a seat on the board of Sun Life, the British insurance group, where he holds a 25 per cent stake.

Mr Gordon, who controls the shareholding through Transatlantic, a £1 billion financial holding company listed on the Luxembourg stock exchange, had been expected to announce moves towards representation when he unveiled the company's financial results yesterday.

However, he said that he had "little real progress to report at this stage regarding

the efforts to advance the undoubted opportunities for co-operation between the Transatlantic group and Sun Life and to achieve an accommodation with their board."

But he added he hoped the impasse could be resolved in the "foreseeable future." Last year Transatlantic made an unsuccessful move at the Sun Life annual meeting to appoint three of its own directors.

Transatlantic, which also holds key stakes in Capital and Counties, and Continental and Industrial Trust, the shopping centre developers, reported pretax profits

for last year up by 60 per cent to just above £39 million. Shareholders' funds rose by 34 per cent to £751 million.

If the company were listed on the London stock market it would rank among the top 50, said Mr Gordon, who remains cautious about future market trends.

"It is difficult to be convinced that international stock and financial markets yet reflect the inevitable disruptive effects of correcting the major imbalances such as the UK budget and trade deficits and the distorted pattern for world trade," he said.

Fall in leading indicators has slowed

The fall in leading indicators of the economy since the stock market crash has slowed. The Central Statistical Office's index of longer leading indicators fell only 0.3 to 103.7 in January after declining by 5.9 between the peak in July and the end of last year.

The optimism of CBI surveys helped stem the fall.

The shorter leading index fell 0.1 in January to 101.4 after larger falls in November and December. The main influence was slower expansion of consumer credit.

C&W joins £68m venture for telecoms satellite over Asia

By Joe Joseph
Cable and Wireless, the telecommunications group, is moving into the satellite television business with a joint venture to launch the first domestic telecommunications satellite dedicated to cover China and the Asian region.

The £120 million (£68 million) venture - in partnership with Ketchicon Whampoa, the Hong Kong conglomerate controlled by Mr Li Ka-shing, and Peking's China International Trust and Investment Corporation, a banking arm of the Chinese government - will use a Westar VI satellite retrieved from a previously unsuccessful flight.

The consortium, which has not yet been named, plans to launch the satellite early next year into fixed orbit over south-east Asia, and has chosen China's Long March 3 rocket as the launch vehicle.

The three partners have invested equally in the project through subsidiaries, and each will take an equal share of profits from the project, which is expected to be making money after four years.

Mr Michael Gale, Hong Kong director of C&W, said: "The developing Asian countries' stake in this important undertaking cannot be overestimated, as it will allow provision of telecommunications services in areas where the use of land-based systems has been physically difficult to establish."

BHP set to win investors' approval

Melbourne (Reuters) - Shareholders in Australia's largest company, Broken Hill Proprietary, are expected to sanction its multi-billion dollar restructuring proposal today with minimal opposition.

Frogmore in £13.5m office acquisitions

Frogmore Estates, the property investment company, has bought two office buildings in Holborn, London, for £13.5 million. "The purchases increase Frogmore's strategic holdings in the Holborn area, which has seen a substantial uplift in rental values over the past 12 months," said the company. Frogmore is paying £8.7 million for Festival House, a 1960s office block with 37,750 sq ft, producing rent of £350,000 a year.

The building is better known as the London Weather Centre and is used for the transmission of BBC radio weather forecasts. The nearby Northgate House, built in the late 1950s with 28,200 sq ft, is also being acquired. The building is fully let to the Customs and Excise and Britannia Building Society.

Coffee house deal for baker
Carr's Milling Industries, the Cumbrian baker, is paying £150,000 for 75 per cent of Dickensian Coffee Houses of Carlisle. There is an option to buy the remaining 25 per cent in the next four years. Management of the company will remain unchanged. The price will be satisfied by £40,000 in cash and the balance in Carr's shares.

S&N buys in Australia
Smith & Nephew is buying Field Group Chemicals of New South Wales, Australia, in a deal worth Aus\$3 million (£1.21 million). Field manufactures X-ray contrast and barium-based, high-resolution products used in scanning devices. It claims a significant market share in Australia and also exports to Britain, the United States, and New Zealand.

Strong & Fisher buy
Strong & Fisher has further increased its stake in New Zealand Light Leathers, a large New Zealand-based clothing tanner, through the acquisition of an additional 26 per cent stake from Crown Corporation for £800,000 cash.

Go-ahead for ARC offer
Atlantic Richfield Company's agreed £187 million offer for Tricentrol, the oil and gas group, is not being returned to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It was cleared unconditionally on Monday. The takeover comes after ARC failed in its move on Bristol and sold its 24 per cent Bristol stake to British Petroleum for about £600 million.

Record £1m for BPP
BPP Holdings, the financial training, publishing and private education group, made record pre-tax profits of just more than £1 million for the year ended December 31 compared with £625,000 the previous year. The profit increase was accompanied by a 25 per cent rise in earnings per share to 17.3p and a final dividend of 4p bringing the total for the year to 6.6p against the 5.6p dividend payout last year.

The 70 per cent increase in pre-tax profits was achieved with three acquisitions by the group last year, as well as organic growth in the core professional training and related publishing business.

Doubt over 'insider' proposals

Tokyo (Reuters) - A leading advisory panel to the Japanese finance ministry released a report proposing reform of laws against insider share trading, but securities industry analysts doubted the proposals would be effective.

The report, submitted to Mr Kiuchi Miyazawa, the finance minister, envisages expanded sanctions, including criminal charges, to prevent trading based on information not yet available to the public.

But there is no strong body to enforce compliance, and this may mean there will be little real change, analysts said. Even some of the ministry's officials agreed that in the future, a strong regulatory body, applying any laws passed is going to be a problem.

One ministry official, who declined to be identified, said that even if the proposals become law, the ministry lacks staff to police Japan's six stock exchanges effectively.

"We have 15 staff, at the most, available for checking up on insider trading. The (US) Securities and Exchange Commission has about 600," he said.

The ministry, on the basis of the proposals, is expected to submit bills to parliament by mid-March, ministry officials said. If the bills pass as scheduled, they should be in force by mid-1989.

Electricity rises 'intolerable'

Strong objections to proposed electricity tariff increases by the London Electricity Board (LEB) came yesterday from the London Electricity Consultative Council (LECC), the customers' watchdog body.

The LECC criticised plans to raise tariffs by an average of nearly 8 per cent from April 1. It would raise the capital's electricity prices at nearly twice the rate of general inflation, raising costs for industry and commerce as well as cutting the living standards of all Londoners on low and fixed household incomes, objected the LECC.

It said the increase was mainly the result of a political decision by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Energy, to push up electricity's profit margin over the next two years to boost cash proceeds when the industry is privatised.

A London increase was "particularly intolerable" because by the end of this financial year the LEB would earn profits well above those required by its current government-set target, went on the LECC, which wanted this year's surplus profits to be used to modify the proposed April rise. If that were done Londoners would face a rise of only 6 per cent, the LECC claimed.

The argument was put to the LEB that it had a legal duty to do this, but the LEB has still turned the idea down. Although the LECC is bound to consult the LEB about price changes it is not obliged to accept its views.

The LECC has already urged that a privatised electricity industry should get a new statutory watchdog body with powers to regulate prices and look to consumer protection.

Mr Michael Hari, the joint managing director of F&C, said of the October crash: "From day one we extended our loans to make sure that we would be in a good position. The crash threw up some terrific buying opportunities and we didn't sell a thing."

F&C borrowed \$50 million (£28.2 million) which it then invested in United Kingdom gilts, German bonds, and

British equities, such as BT and Taylor Woodrow.

"From the second and third day onwards we were nibbling away at the UK stock market," Mr Hari said. F&C also purchased a few European stocks, such as Telefunken, the Spanish telecommunications company, in which it saw a 20 per cent profit within a matter of days.

The company is paying a final dividend of 1.36p, making 1.96p for the year, an increase of 15 per cent.

Last year the company's discount on its shares to net assets widened from 19 per cent to 26 per cent and currently stands at about 22 per cent.

The number of private shareholders in the trust increased by 34 per cent in 1987, reflecting the popularity of the savings plan linked to the trust.



Preparing electricity for privatization: Cecil Parkinson

Foreign & Colonial trust in first fall since 1974

By Lawrence Lever
Foreign & Colonial, Britain's second largest investment trust, has reported a 10 per cent decline in net assets for the year to December 31, its first drop in net assets since 1974.

However, F&C took some brave action during the October market crash which led to a smaller decline in assets than would otherwise have been the case.

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"From the second and third day onwards we were nibbling away at the UK stock market," Mr Hari said. F&C also purchased a few European stocks, such as Telefunken, the Spanish telecommunications company, in which it saw a 20 per cent profit within a matter of days.

The company is paying a final dividend of 1.36p, making 1.96p for the year, an increase of 15 per cent.

Last year the company's discount on its shares to net assets widened from 19 per cent to 26 per cent and currently stands at about 22 per cent.

The number of private shareholders in the trust increased by 34 per cent in 1987, reflecting the popularity of the savings plan linked to the trust.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report February 25 1988

Court of Appeal

Wishes of asylum applicant irrelevant Third-party proceedings not excluded

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Miller
Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Balcombe and Sir Frederick Lawton

[Judgment February 24]
A Jewish South African, who claimed to be unable to return to South Africa because of his opposition to apartheid, was refused asylum in the United Kingdom as it could not be said that he "would have to go" to South Africa if required to leave the UK, since he could go to Israel if he wished, although in fact he did not want to go there.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Steven Miller from an order of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (The Times July 3, 1987) refusing his application for judicial review of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal's refusal to allow his appeal against the Secretary of State for the Home Department's refusal to give him leave to remain in the UK.

Mr Ian MacDonald for the applicant; Mr David Pannick for the appeal Tribunal.

LORD JUSTICE FOX said:

that the applicant was born in South Africa and went to school there. He was Jewish by birth, but he said he was an atheist. In 1978 he spent two months in Israel and in May 1979 returned there to go to university. After completing his course he went back to South Africa but very soon came to the UK as a visitor.

In South Africa he was faced with the prospect of being called up for military service. He was opposed to apartheid and objected to being a member of the defence forces.

The applicant said he did not want to go back to South Africa because he was out of sympathy with Israel and felt he could not pursue his anti-apartheid activities there.

The case turned on the provisions of paragraph 134 of the Immigration Rules (HC169), the issue being whether if the applicant was required to leave the UK he "would have to go" to a country to which he is unwilling to go owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted.

The court was not concerned with whether the applicant was right in saying that he had well-founded fear of persecution if he returned to South Africa.

His Lordship agreed with the submission of the appeal Tribunal that the words "would have to go" in paragraph 134 meant that if the applicant was required to leave the UK he would have no practical alternative but to return to South Africa.

If the applicant could on proper application to the Israeli authorities obtain leave to go to Israel, it could not possibly be said that he would have to go to South Africa.

The language of paragraph 134 admitted of no other conclusion. The question then was whether the secretary of state was entitled to take the view that the applicant could go to Israel.

That had to be considered in the light of all the relevant circumstances which were: (i) the applicant's age and the fact that he had spent four years in Israel and was educated at the state's expense, (ii) Israel was a signatory of the Convention

relating to the Status of Refugees, and (iv) the applicant said that he might be allowed one year of temporary residence in Israel.

It seemed to his Lordship that the secretary of state could reasonably conclude that the applicant could go to Israel.

It was not disputed that the applicant could go to Israel if he wanted to but it was said that in fact he did not want to and that that might affect the Israeli attitude to any request of admission. Accordingly, it was said, he should not be required to go there.

His Lordship was unable to accept that contention. Paragraph 134 said nothing about the wishes of the applicant or of his entitlement to legal choice as to the place to which he might safely go. The question whether he would have to go to South Africa if asylum were refused did not depend on the wishes of the applicant.

Lord Justice Balcombe and Sir Frederick Lawton delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Winstanley-Burgess, Treasury Solicitor.

ITT Schaub-Lorenz Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH and Others v Birkart Johann Internationaler Spedition GmbH & Co KG and Others
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Bingham

[Judgment February 17]
The Convention on the Carriage of Goods by Road, contained in the Schedule to the Carriage of Goods by Road Act 1965, did not exclude the issue of third-party proceedings under the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Accordingly, a notice issued under Order 16, rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court by a defendant to an action against another defendant claiming indemnity or contribution in respect of goods lost in transit would not be struck out, since on the facts of the case it could not offend article 37(a) of the Convention.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Seawheel Ltd, the fourth defendant, from Mr John Rogers QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division who had dismissed their appeal from the refusal of Master Freddie to set out a notice pursuant to Order 16, rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court which had been issued against them by Birkart International Forwarding Ltd, the third defendants.

Mr Richard Aikens, QC and Mr Stephen Hofmeyr for Seawheel; Mr Roger Buckley, QC and Mr Nigel Meeson for Birkart.

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM said that the plaintiffs were the senders and consignees of 292 television sets which were intended to be carried from West Germany to Newcastle under Lyme by road and sea.

They issued proceedings claiming compensation for loss of the goods in transit against nine defendants who were all said to be carriers involved in transporting the goods by road.

Only Birkart International Forwarding were served. They were said to be a carrier liable under the Convention.

They denied that they were carriers at all, contending they were only freight forwarders. However, they issued notices under Order 16, rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court against, among others, Seawheel.

On the assumption that the third defendants had contracted to carry the goods, it appeared that they had subcontracted performance of the contract to the fourth defendants, who it seemed had subcontracted performance of the stages of the journey, the road leg of which, from Ipswich to Newcastle under Lyme, was delegated to the eighth defendants, who subcontracted it to the ninth defendants.

In the view of the Court of Appeal the cumulative effect of the irregularities recounted was to render the jury's verdict on the counts of causing grievous bodily harm and criminal damage unsafe and unsatisfactory and the convictions were therefore quashed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Inner London.

claim of contribution against themselves.

His Lordship could not, however, accept that "the carrier responsible" under article 37(a) could be a person who had not made himself party to the contract of international carriage.

It was in his view inescapable, reading the Act and Convention as a whole, that where one carrier had made himself party to the contract of international carriage he was liable for loss or damage occurring at any stage, even if under article 3 he had used other persons, not his servants or agents, for the performance of the carriage.

Where there were successive Convention carriers, a Convention carrier successfully sued by the sender or consignee could recover against a Convention carrier responsible for that loss, but that carrier could not escape liability by showing that he had subcontracted performance to a non-Convention carrier who was actually responsible.

A successor Convention carrier, under article 34, made himself responsible for the whole operation including a non-Convention carrier under article 3.

In the present case, it was reasonably possible that the fourth defendants made themselves party to the contract, but the eighth and ninth defendants did not.

In his Lordship's view the third defendants' claim against the fourth defendants for

contribution was not bound to fail and accordingly the notice should not be struck out.

The fourth defendants had also submitted that section 3 of the Act ousted the ordinary English law of contribution, which was governed by article 37; that that article stipulated that payment of compensation by a carrier was a pre-condition of his right to recovery against another carrier; and that any inconsistency between Convention and English procedural rules should be resolved in favour of Convention which was paramount.

His Lordship agreed, but local procedural rules were only overridden or ousted if they were inconsistent or repugnant to the Act or Convention.

A claim by the third defendants for a declaration that the fourth defendants were liable to indemnify them against the sum of any compensation properly paid by the third defendants to the plaintiffs could not offend article 37(a) and was permissible under order 16, rule 8.

Depending always on the facts of the particular case, third-party proceedings might in principle be useful and desirable. There was nothing in the Convention to exclude such a claim appropriately framed.

His Lordship would therefore dismiss the appeal.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Dillon agreed.

Solicitors: Ingledew Brown Bannison & Garrett; Hill Dickinson & Co, Liverpool.

Director of Public Prosecutions v Richards
Before Lord Justice Glidewell and Mr Justice French

[Judgment February 18]
A person on bail surrendered to custody under section 3(1) of the Bail Act 1976 when he complied with the procedures of the court where he was due to appear and reported to the appropriate person.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing a prosecutor's appeal by way of case stated against the acquittal by Oldham Justices of David James Richards for failing to surrender to custody contrary to section 6(1) of the Bail Act 1976.

Mr Anthony Morris for the DPP; Mr Philip Havers for amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that the defendant arrived at the magistrates' court to surrender to bail. In the concourse there was a notice facing the entrance directing all persons due to appear in court to report to the inquiry counter. The defendant did so and reported to the usher. He then

waited in the concourse until noon, during which time he was and finger-printed.

By noon the defendant's case had not been called on and he left the building without permission. When his absence was discovered a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Mr Morris argued that under section 2(2) of the 1976 Act surrender to custody meant surrender to the custody of the court which included a judge or justice of the peace. "Court" therefore meant a judicial officer and surrender to an official was not sufficient. The defendant had not surrendered to custody under section 3(1) and was guilty of the offence under section 6(1).

The defendant was not in custody in the concourse of the court. Custody required being under the control of the police or prison officers.

However, his Lordship agreed with the contrary arguments of Mr Havers that once the defendant had reported to the appropriate official at the appropriate time he had surrendered to bail and was then in custody. He was then under an implied obligation not to leave without con-

sent and if he did so was liable to be arrested under section 7(2).

That was precisely the situation section 7(2) envisaged. If a person had not surrendered to bail until he was actually in the dock, then section 7(2) was superfluous.

If a court directed a procedure which provided a person surrendering to bail to report to a particular officer or official, and the person complied with those directions, he had then surrendered to bail and was thereafter in the custody of the court.

His Lordship emphasized that if the person simply went to the court building he had not surrendered. He had to report to somebody.

It might be that courts would have to consider making it clear to persons that thereafter they were in custody and, even if they were allowed to sit in the concourse, they were not permitted to leave the building without consent. Those who chose to leave regardless would be dealt with under section 7(2).

Mr Justice French agreed.

Solicitors: CPS, Greater Manchester; Treasury Solicitor.

Duty as to counsel

In re A (a Minor)
It was the duty of solicitors to ensure that counsel instructed on their client's behalf was competent.

Where it ought to have been obvious that counsel who had been instructed was not competent to conduct the proceedings, the solicitors had been seriously at fault in not withdrawing instructions from him and ensuring that counsel competent to prosecute the proceedings was instructed.

In those circumstances it was no excuse for the solicitors to say that they were relying on counsel and counsel had let them down.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe) so held on February 19, ordering Leonard Cheung & Co to pay personally the costs of Bromley London Borough Council in respect of four abortive hearings in the Court of Appeal in a case in which a mother had been refused access to her child.

The unrepresented appellant also addressed the court to have those matters separately dealt with on the ground that they were not connected with the costs alleging offences against Mrs Turner. That application was summarily rejected.

In the view of the Court of Appeal while the crown court had power to grant legal aid for counsel only that was only applicable to cases of urgency where there was no time to

mixed open

السوق المالية

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your daily share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code
1	Ryl Bt Scott (as)	Bank/Discount	
2	Baker Harris	Property	
3	BM GP	Industrials A-D	
4	Leeds	Textiles	
5	LWT Hides	Chemicals	
6	Jacksons Broom	Industrials E-K	
7	Marley	Building Roads	
8	Tarmac (as)	Building Roads	
9	Fosco-Minny	Chemicals/Plas	
10	Brown Boveri Kent	Electricals	
11	Morgan Crucible	Industrials L-R	
12	Racal Elect (as)	Electricals	
13	Waco Furnaces	Industrials S-Z	
14	Newton (as)	Industrials L-R	
15	Hawsons	Industrials E-K	
16	Brunings	Paper/Print/Adv	
17	Br Airways (as)	Industrials A-D	
18	DRG	Paper/Print/Adv	
19	Scholes (GH)	Electricals	
20	Parfield	Industrials L-R	
21	Pilkington (as)	Industrials L-R	
22	Molins	Industrials L-R	
23	SPP	Industrials S-Z	
24	Kode	Electricals	
25	Kendall (A)	Industrials E-K	
26	Johnson Cleaners	Industrials S-Z	
27	BET Oad (as)	Industrials A-D	
28	Clascon	Property	
29	Egerton Trust	Property	
30	Anglia Sec	Building Roads	
31	Wyndham Eng	Industrials S-Z	
32	Dunsmuir	Textiles	
33	Plessey (as)	Electricals	
34	BTR (as)	Industrials A-D	
35	Eng China Clay (as)	Industrials E-K	
36	Usher Walker	Paper/Print/Adv	
37	Hay (Norman)	Industrials E-K	
38	Isotack Johnson	Building Roads	
39	Taylor Woodrow	Building Roads	
40	Bolton Shop	Drapery Stores	
41	Bowater	Industrials A-D	
42	LDN	Industrials L-R	
43	Lex	Industrials E-K	
44	Erskine Hse	Industrials E-K	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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UNDATED

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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INDEX-LINKED

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 22. Dealings end March 4. Contango day March 7. Settlement day March 14.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24.)

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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BREWERIES

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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BUILDING, ROADS

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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CINEMAS, TV

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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DRAPERY, STORES

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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ELECTRICALS

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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FINANCE, LAND

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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FOODS

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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HOTELS, CATERERS

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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INDUSTRIALS A-D

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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INDUSTRIALS E-K

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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INDUSTRIALS L-R

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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INDUSTRIALS S-Z

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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INSURANCE

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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LEISURE

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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MINING

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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OILS, GAS

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OVERSEAS TRADERS

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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1987/88	High/Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
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PROPERTY

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SHIPPING

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SHOES, LEATHER

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TEXTILES

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TOBACCO

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THE TIMES

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

February 25, 1988

From the world of industry Ronald Taylor describes a new method of tackling one of the greatest obstacles to growth

Shortages of skilled workers may soon be among the greatest handicaps to industrial growth. That is the message increasingly being heard by chambers of commerce all round the country. It presents a major challenge for the new Training Commission, which is to follow the Manpower Services Commission.

More importantly, it will also put to the test the changed structure of industrial training, following the abolition of most of the industrial training boards.

These changes have rightly put training into local hands, where companies who are actively looking for skills can directly influence the training providers. In theory, and in practice, these responsive local links work much better than "top-down" decisions on training, which left us woefully ill-equipped for changed industrial needs right through the 1970s and early 1980s.

But for the best local training mix we need three key ingredients — the responsiveness of the education system to long-term industrial requirements; resources from the centre to meet long-term and fundamental training needs, which it is in the wider public interest to foster; and an improvement in the flow and quality of local labour market information, from the "bottom up".

As regards the third of these,

training providers must have an effective means of assessing the underlying changes in the skills requirements of industry, particularly for the longer run, and to be able to identify deficiencies and shortages before they handicap industry's ability to compete.

The Manpower Services Commission has adopted a number of approaches to this problem, using local colleges to anticipate needs drawing on business representatives, and through statistical market survey methods. The approach with the greatest potential, however, has been what is called Local Employer Networks, or LENs for short.

They start from the right base. Local employers are the likeliest source of long-term as well as short-term information on the labour market and skills.

They can reach directly to a very wide range of opinion, the sampling of opinion is frequent and not too time-consuming, and it will greatly increase in value as long as it is consistently done, and is carried out all over the country, so that the information can be aggregated at every level — local labour market, local education authority, Manpower Services Commission area boards, regionally and nationally — where decisions on the funding of training are made.

LENs are being built up around

Local initiatives can overcome Britain's severe skill shortage



chambers of commerce have developed Youth Training Schemes and have, as a result, been sending staff out to small firms to talk about work placement and, therefore, training needs and problems, so there is some evidence that attitudes are beginning to change towards training.

LENs are the vehicle at hand for a job that is urgent and badly needed. Government spends nearly £2 billion a year on training. In the absence of LENs, the effectiveness of much of that spending will be hard to assess.

If it goes wrong, by the time we know it will be too late. It would be easy to say that it is industry's responsibility, but government has a major responsibility in training, both as a channel for resources, and in ensuring that provision of training for future needs is adequately assessed and co-ordinated, and that, in particular, our publicly funded training effort is accurately directed.

Business should look to work with and through LENs where and when they are established nearby them. In our own self-interest, they should give them all the support they can.

Ronald Taylor is director-general of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

the country. Backed jointly by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, the Confederation of British Industry and the Manpower Services Commission, LENs are being established in most local education authority areas. I am happy to say that, to date, nearly two-thirds of those established have been set up around chambers of commerce and these LENs are beginning to show results.

● The Bedfordshire network is mounting a campaign to deal with recruitment and retention problems in the hat trade

● Birmingham has initiated investigations into apparent skills shortages in scaffolding, food technology and electronics for motor mechanics

● Central and West Lancashire is

looking to remedy a serious shortage of multi-skilled engineering apprentices

● Derbyshire is using a training club to brief employers on new training techniques and good practice

● Sheffield has been feeding back to its local colleges of further education opinions on areas of skill shortage and changes in business practice and training needs

LENs are tackling not only a problem in tapping local business opinion, but also a difficulty in communicating with small firms and creating an awareness of the need for better training and particularly management training.

The Charter Group of organizations, which has committed itself to develop and apply high

standards of modern management practice and business skills, aims to promote that good practice at all levels in companies, whether large or small, and it also, sees the need for local networks of organizations linked to neighbouring education and training establishments. This might be LENs, or it might be the chamber of commerce movement itself, whose traditional role is to understand and to respond to business needs locally.

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce is examining such possibilities with the Council for Management Education and Development. We are also looking at other ways in which LENs can improve the flow of information to, and contribution from, industry concerning

local training and industry-education initiatives. There is much work to be done in these fields, but a body such as the LENs is needed to prevent, as Sir Keith Joseph put it, "scrambled messages" going to and from industry.

These are potentially major steps forward. Fulfilling potential will be a long and hard struggle. Changes in attitude take years to achieve. Ministerial exhortation and national publicity campaigns alone will not succeed. A combination of chambers of commerce and LENs as the local delivery point for a whole range of government and private sector initiatives may be the best chance yet to achieve the penetration necessary.

It has been suggested that as

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DEPARTMENT - B.P. 1149
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S. W. LONDON

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£15,000-£20,000 +
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We now need experienced sales professionals with imagination and energy to promote the service to senior buying management in the largest UK companies.

If you have the experience and skills, and want to expand your career opportunities, call Peter Crossley on 01 879 7077 to talk about the post.

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and Production

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Landfill Operations Manager

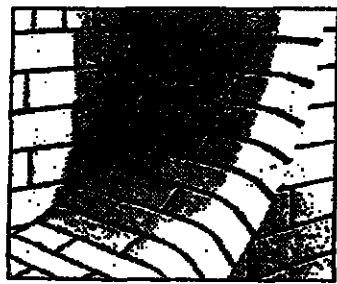
To liaise with planning authorities and contracting companies, negotiating rates and revenues. You will also be responsible for the design and installation of efficient extraction and utilisation gas systems from our landfill sites. We would be interested in talking to you if you can demonstrate a good knowledge of landfill operations and have experience of landfill gas extraction systems.

Ceramic Process Engineer

Our Engineering Department provides a specialist technical service to our Works Managers on all engineering aspects of the production process. We require a Ceramic Process Engineer to join a project management team involved with an exciting, multi-million pound capital expenditure programme advancing our manufacturing technology.

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If you want to play a part in Redland Bricks' future success, send a CV to Robert Groves, Personnel Officer, Redland Bricks Limited, Graylands, P.O. Box 7, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4QB or phone 0403-211872 for an application form (24 hour answering service).



Redland Bricks

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These are senior appointments with reporting lines direct to the Board of the Company.

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Capital Value Brokers is an entirely independent firm of city based finance brokers specialising in arranging and packaging all forms of asset based industrial finance in the U.K.

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The Managing Director
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Ideally you will have experience of the warehousing and distribution of high quality textiles and wallpapers, however, candidates outside our field will be considered.

The salary offered reflects the importance of this position. c.£20,000 and the benefits package includes a company car.

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(The Industrial Ceramic Division of the Fairy Group)

We are looking for a MANAGER who will be responsible for the operation of our High Voltage Laboratory, located at Tarnworth, Staffordshire. Applicants should preferably hold an Honours Degree in Electrical Engineering or Physics with experience in the operation of High Voltage test equipment.

The Laboratory provides technical support for the development and testing of electrical equipment designed for use up to the highest power transmission system voltages.

Presently, "State of the art" investigations are being made into the electrical breakdown strength of dielectric materials under the effect of surge voltages with rise times of up to 500V/us.

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The Personnel Manager,
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Apply in writing to PO BOX 536, BS99 1ND.

Re-advertisement

Executive Secretary

The British Poultry Federation represents the growing and dynamic poultry and egg sectors of agriculture throughout the United Kingdom. We now require an additional Executive Secretary with administrative skills, political acumen, initiative, and experience of and enthusiasm for public relations activities.

The post is London based, and the preferred age range is 25-35. Attractive salary, pension and other fringe benefits.

Familiarity with agriculture, languages or computers an advantage.

Apply with full c.v. to Director-General, British Poultry Federation, High Holborn House, 52-54 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6SX.

TS 01-481 4481
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THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25 1988

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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TEACHING AS A ^{NEW} CAREER

Your skills could take you into a class of your own

Teaching is changing

As well as using their academic qualifications, some teachers are investing their practical skills and experience of business or industry in guiding their pupils through the new challenges of today's educational curriculum.

We're currently seeking to attract men and women to train to teach craft design and technology (CDT), technology, maths, physics and business studies in secondary schools in England and Wales.

Some training courses have been specifically designed to fit the needs of experienced people without a degree who have valuable professional qualifications to offer. There are good long-term career prospects for ambitious people, and the growing need for teachers in these shortage subjects is reflected in the new salary scales.

But most important of all, teaching offers the chance to help young people learn the skills and knowledge that will help them face the challenges of a demanding, fast-changing society.

Teaching's not for everyone. As well as a good educational background with a degree or qualifications at advanced further education level, you'll need to ask yourself whether you have the determination to invest your skills in a dynamic new environment. If you've got what it takes, now's the time for the next step.

We've put all the facts together in a special Teaching as a Career information pack, covering the subjects and giving full details of training courses and grants.

As you'll see from the coupon, there are two different information packs, one designed specifically for people entering teaching with a degree, and the other for those with business or technical qualifications, and relevant experience. Please indicate which you would like to receive.

If you live in the South East, there's another way to see for yourself the range of new opportunities and new initiatives within the teaching profession, and that's to visit the TASC South East '88 Exhibition, at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington, London N1 (near Angel Tube), on March 25 and 26, 1988. Entry is free and details of the events and how to get there are included in the TASC information pack.

Either call, free of charge, our FREE TASC Linkline on 0800 400 448, or send the coupon below to Peter Barnes, TASC Publicity Unit, London SE9 6XE.

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Please send me the TASC Information Pack for:

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Teaching. A new future for your skills.



Company Secretary

"a wide-ranging role with excellent prospects"

c. £20,000 + excellent benefits + car

A thriving well-established company in the food and drink sector, located in Hertford, my client has a turnover of £20m and employs 1,400 people.

The Company Secretary reports to the Managing Director and assists the Board in many areas of activity. Apart from the more usual work associated with such a post, the Secretary's responsibilities include personnel and pensions administration, health and safety requirements, legal documentation, property and insurance. All in all a key role within the management team with distinct prospects for promotion to General Management.

Professionally qualified and preferably in your 30's, you will have first class communication skills, and enjoy developing personal relationships at all levels in the organisation.

The remuneration package includes non-contributory pension, executive car and other above-average benefits.

In the first instance please send a full C.V. and salary details to Alan Birch quoting Ref. MD1592 at Macmillan Davies Consultants, Salisbury House, Bluecoats, Hertford, SG14 1PU. Telephone: (0992) 552552.



Macmillan Davies

MANAGEMENT SELECTION

Area Sales Engineers

2 POSTS - MIDLANDS AND SOUTH EAST

We are the UK subsidiary of a leading U.S. manufacturer and supply a wide variety of fluid sealing components including rotary seals and gaskets to the main industries of Britain. Our products are well accepted and emphasis is placed on the supply of non-asbestos materials. If you have a mechanical engineering background and the determination to sell in a technical environment, Garlock can offer you:-

A good basic salary. An attractive Bonus scheme
A quality car. 4 weeks Annual Holiday plus an extra week after one year's service.
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Please send CV to:

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A small but ambitious company, we are an important participant in security products. As part of our plans for growth we require a manager for our production unit. This is an assembly operation based at Enfield. The responsibilities centre on the production of goods on time and on cost.

You are a self starter, a team player, persistent, numerate, with good people management skills. You are looking for an opportunity to play a major role in the continued growth of the company.

Benefits are competitive and consistent with our status as part of a PLC Group, including a share option scheme and group pension.

Please send a detailed C.V. and salary progression to date, in the first instance, to: Reference: Prdm, Thompson Scannell and Company, 14 Parkway Welwyn Garden City Herts AL8 6HG.

HAMPSHIRE

Director

County Museums Service

£28,000 +

Hampshire seeks a successor to Kenneth Barton who retires at the end of June 1988.

With 11 museums staging over 50 major exhibitions each year and attracting some 187,000 visitors, the Hampshire Museums Service has established a reputation for high professional standards which is recognised nationally.

The County Council is committed to maintain and develop these standards with wide public appeal and support. The Director must therefore possess relevant academic qualifications, management skills and experience of a high order. No particular age range is preferred but a record of achievement is essential.

In addition to a salary of £25,557 - £28,044, the post carries an essential car user allowance or leased car, a personal allowance of £594 p.a., and a retire at 60 pension package. Relocation expenses up to £4,500 plus actual removal costs and a mortgage subsidy scheme are also available.

The County Council pursues a policy of equality of opportunity. Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the County Manpower Services Officer, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire. SO23 8UJ. Telephone: Winchester (0962) 847691. Closing date 31st March 1988.

COUNTY MUSEUMS SERVICE

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You would join us during an exciting growth period throughout Europe. Our next phase of development is the expansion of our UK operation.

The area will be Southern England, the rewards for a proven track record, enthusiasm and flair are high and the potential for career advancement is limitless.

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Have previous financial sales experience
Know the locality and its market place
Can communicate & negotiate at all levels
Are highly motivated and committed.

If you have these qualifications - we want to meet you. In return we offer an excellent salary plus the following benefits:

- House Mortgage Subsidy and low interest personal loans (after a qualifying period)
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- Incentive Bonus Scheme
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For an application form contact: **James Broadbent, International Factors Ltd, Sovereign House, Queens Road, Brighton, Telephone (0273) 202916 (24 hour service).**

Closing date for completed applications - 3rd March 1988.

The perfect partner for the developing career

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A senior recruitment consultant is sought for a supervisory role within the London office of a national recruitment Company currently engaged in a planned expansion programme.

A professional individual is required with man management skills and potential for promotion to a very senior role within the Company. The required individual will not necessarily be currently working within the recruitment industry.

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Candidates, whose details will not be released without permission, should write or telephone in complete confidence (quoting ref: 7214) to:

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London EC4A 3LN
01-353 1577



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£18,000 +
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The areas to be covered at the city of London, the Government establishments and Bristol to Birmingham. This is a first class career opportunity and together with a superb commission structure, there are enviable benefits and excellent job satisfaction.

To arrange a local interview contact:

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01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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£50,000 per annum + Mercedes

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Ref: RGS/100/T

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We place a high value on the quality of our research and see this as a key appointment. Responsible for providing a professional research service, you will work closely with our consultants and be an essential part of the management team.

You will have had research experience in an established search consultancy and understand the need to work to time scales. Ideally a graduate with professional training, you will have the confidence and ability to create immediate credibility and share in the rewards of our future success.

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Please forward a career history, quoting the appropriate reference number, to:

HIGHFIELD ASSOCIATES

Highfield House,
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Telephone: 0635 33923 Fax: 0635 38837

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Telephone 01-283 7101 Ext. 4508/4509

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We are seeking a well-qualified senior person for the relatively new contract area.

The successful applicant for this responsible position will have a strong proven sales track record in contract of staff placement, a solid understanding of the business knowledge needed (accounting, invoicing etc) to run your own accounts, and day to day financial queries, and a strong desire to achieve and grow with the contracts division.

You will be capable of conducting business on your own initiative, and will probably be aged 28-33, looking for the move to take you into a management role.

In return, we offer the opportunity of joining a professional, dedicated young team committed to achievement, an excellent salary/commission package, and chance to realise your potential as a leader, with tomorrow's market leaders.

Please call Anne Hutchinson today, on 01-487 4480, this evening on 01-785 6970 or during office hours on 01-487 4480, for more information or to apply.

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Experience	ESSENTIAL CRITERIA
	Ability to sell successfully to Major Companies
	Ability to deal effectively with Senior Management
Education	High quality spoken/written English Language
	Good General Knowledge
Age	30-45 - no younger, no older
Skills	Excellent Communication/Presentation Skills
	Self-motivated, Able to use initiative
Characteristics	Natural Enthusiasm
	Energy
	Depth/Maturity
Other needs	Clear Driving Licence
	Professional Appearance
	Good Health
	Team Member
Location	Willing to live within 20 miles of Cambridge
	Willing to start within 1 year of starting. Willing to be away from home 4/5 nights a month.

If you can fulfill the list of essentials above - and they are essential - (as if you cannot meet them please don't waste your valuable time, sending us information for nothing), please send a handwritten letter identifying your key skills, a photograph and a C.V. as soon as possible to: Beverly Carpenter, Communication Improvements Ltd., Sentry House, Friday Road, Cambridge CB5 2QN Surrey.

Deputy chief executive

Manchester, c£35,000 + car



Greater Manchester Buses Ltd is the leading bus operator in the North West. Some 2000 buses are operated through three operating subsidiaries, covering the county of Greater Manchester. In addition there is a coaching subsidiary and they also provide engineering and property management services to external clients. The workforce exceeds 6000 and turnover is around £100 million. This dynamic company is totally committed to a customer led philosophy and playing its part in the exciting developments which are going on in the region.

This appointment is as Deputy to the existing Chief Executive and Managing Director who retires in October 1988. As such the person appointed will be his natural successor. Initial responsibility will be for a number of functions and for the update of the corporate plan.

Whilst practical experience of the public transport industry is not essential it is thought that some experience of working in a similar senior position at the interface between the public and private sectors could be most advantageous. A track record which includes proven ability to manage through a period of drastic change is considered an essential requirement.

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London SW1 c.£17,000

Our recently-formed new business development directorate is building a small team of professionals to progress the company's strategy in this vital area and needs two Research Analysts to support the work of the team.

These research roles require financial, economic and statistical analysis experience and an ability to build a data base relating to a number of business sectors by making enquiries of expert bodies and accessing published information, including computerised information systems. However, the job requires more than 'librarian' skills and candidates should have an understanding of the business world and an ability to work independently to identify topics for investigation as well as proposing the detailed methods to be used.

Candidates should be educated to degree level in finance or economics with a high level of

numeracy and experience of computer based information systems.

We offer benefits normally associated with a large progressive company, including relocation assistance if appropriate.

Please write with full career details, quoting ref: RNB/12150/059/T, to Mr M R Tierney, Recruitment Administration, British Gas plc, 59 Bryanston Street, London W1A 2AZ. Closing date for receipt of applications: 9 March 1988.

An equal opportunity employer

British Gas

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Sales Executives

Thames Valley OTE £25k plus

Our client, arguably the most prestigious and successful leisure resort developer in the UK, announces the creation of a unique leisure and multi-ownership resort in the Thames Valley.

With the emphasis on selling superb leisure facilities with international holiday accommodation as a total concept, key sales personnel are needed at this critical pre-launch phase to spearhead the sales programme.

We seek the highest calibre sales professionals, ideally with experience in the leisure, consumer durables or related service industries. A proven track record should be backed by the drive and commitment for further successes.

For the rare opportunity to join this dynamic leisure company who reward highly for exceptional performance, please send cv to Kevin Brundrett or Jonathan Lister, quoting reference 204ST.



Leisure and Hotel Appointments Ltd.
5 Prince's Gate, London W1 1JL
Telephone: 01-436 1413
Telex: 25180 ASPECT G. Fax: 01-584 4905
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CORPORATE LEASING
OTE £20K PLUS

Colindale Finance Corporation Ltd
Professional Sales Executive required to join an already successful team. The specific responsibility is to develop MOTOR VEHICLE CONTRACT HIRE and LEASING to the corporate sector mainly in London and the Home Counties.

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Write with cv to K.W. Hicks, Colindale Finance Corporation Ltd, 7 Hyde Estate Road, London NW9 6HG or phone 01 200 3939.

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All areas
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Good sales People required by expanding company in London. Product range includes Mortgages, Pensions, Life Assurance, Unit Trusts and Investment Management. Offering first year earnings potential of £15-225,000. Excellent residential training programme. Early management opportunities for those with aptitude. Age between 25 and 45. Licensing to requirement of Financial Services Act.

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CAREER
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£14,500 + Blue-chip Company is expanding its Sales operation in the Central London area. If you are aged 24+, have Management and/or Sales ability, or you are not happy with your present position, we want to talk to you. If accepted, we will offer you complete Company training and unlimited opportunity for advancement. For a personal interview telephone Michael Acock on 01-439 1940.

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to act on behalf of Midland based metal spinning company. Excellent rates of commission. Reply to BOX 1448.

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CONSULTANT

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

Elliott

Company Secretary

A qualified accountant is required as Company Secretary of this rapidly expanding property development and construction group (annual turnover over £70m).

In addition to the normal management responsibilities associated with the position of Company Secretary of a private company, the person will be responsible for co-ordination of the Group's financial controls and expected to play a key role in the management and determination of future financial strategy.

Candidates will be aged 30+ with the drive and maturity to make a major contribution to a small management team. In addition to a salary commensurate with this level of appointment, an excellent benefits package, including company car, private medical cover, pension scheme and life assurance cover, is provided.

Please write with full CV including current salary to:

GM Thureley FCA
Financial Director
J A Elliott (Holdings) Limited
Twylford House, Pig Lane
Bishops Stortford
Hertfordshire CM22 7QA

Building on a reputation

ARE YOU AT THE CROSSROADS OF YOUR CAREER?

Very often, executives and other professional people contemplate a change right in the middle of their career.

Most often their reasons for this are a general dissatisfaction with their present career and the belief that they could and should be doing better.

Chusid Lander is a group of specialist career consultants who for many years have been helping people earning £15,000 a year, or more, to get better jobs - whether they are currently in a job, unemployed or facing redundancy.

We have turned pessimism into optimism, failure into success and

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To arrange an early confidential appointment without obligation, telephone your nearest office, (24 hour answerphone in London.)

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GENERAL MANAGER

London

This Special Health Authority is a world famous centre for the medical and surgical treatment of neurological disease with significant commitment to teaching and research. Major research projects are currently directed to multiple sclerosis and Parkinsonism among others. The work is currently conducted on five sites. The authority is embarking on a major £23 million rebuilding programme which will concentrate activity on one site.

It seeks a General Manager of outstanding ability to take it forward in this critical phase of its long history. In addition to responsibility for a £20 million budget and over 1200 staff there is the need to balance the priorities of individuals and groups in urgent need of resources to maintain their pre-eminence in their fields. This will be against a background of physical disruption from the building programme and the national debate on the future of the NHS.

Candidates, likely to be aged around 50, will need to demonstrate a remarkable record of success in the management of a large and complex business with strong external constraints and the potential for internal conflict. This should include the maintenance of services during a major reconstruction. The proven ability and the personality to direct, manage and work within a diverse culture are more important than the background which may be public sector, industry, commerce or the Services.

Terms of service are in line with NHS practice and will include relocation assistance where appropriate. Interviews will take place in London.

Please apply in confidence to: The Chief Executive, IMC Executive Selection Ltd, 6-8 Albany Road, Cardiff.

IMC

TALENTED SALES PEOPLE REQUIRED FOR A CAREER IN ESTATE AGENCY

As one of West London's leading independent estate agents, with new offices opening in Chiswick, we now have vacancies for negotiators at all levels. These exciting opportunities are not restricted to applicants with previous experience, as the main prerequisite is a proven ability to sell, plus the determination to succeed within this intensely competitive field.

If you think you could stand the pace, are aged between 18 and 30, a car driver and from a sales orientated background, we would like to hear from you.

* Circa £14,000 - £20,000 (depending on age and experience)*
Car allowance * 5 day week * 4 weeks holiday*

Please apply to Paul or Simon Franklin on 01-840 3000

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COMMISSIONS AS ROYAL MARINES OFFICERS.

Opportunities exist for young men to serve as Officers in the Royal Marines on Short or Full Career Commissions. We'll help you develop the first-class leadership qualities needed to cope with the early responsibilities involved in becoming a Lieutenant in charge of a troop of 30 Royal Marines.

There are openings for both graduates and non-graduates for Short and Full Career Commissions.

Short Career: (4-8 years).

A minimum of 5 GCE 'O' Level (or equivalent) passes, including English Language and Mathematics, is required. Age limit is 17½ to under 23.

Full Career Commissions: A minimum of 5 GCE 'O' Level (or equivalent) passes, including English Language and Mathematics, is required. Of these passes, 2 should be GCE 'A' Levels (or equivalent). Age limit is 17½ to 22.

If you are a graduate, you should be under 25 with GCE 'O' Level (or equivalent) passes in English Language and Maths. In all cases you should normally have been a UK resident for the past 5 years.

To find out more about this exciting career write to Major NGB. Beyts RM, Dept. 154A, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

The Armed Forces are Equal Opportunity Employers under the terms of the Race Relations Act 1976.



Royal Marines Officer

innmac

EUROPEAN PRODUCT MANAGERS £19K - 21K + CAR BERKSHIRE

INNMAC, the world's most successful computer supplies company is continuing to expand at an impressive rate. In order to match this growth, we now need two more European Product Managers in our Datacom Division to identify, develop and introduce new products. If you are looking for an exciting career move into a young, dynamic environment, with a truly international flavour and are capable of working with minimal supervision and have at least 5 years' experience of datacom product marketing management, then the following may well be of interest to you:

PRODUCT MANAGER: DATA/COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Probably a graduate in electrical engineering or telecommunications, you will be an experienced product manager with a good general knowledge of computer technology and telecommunications interfacing standards.

PRODUCT MANAGER: POWER PRODUCTS

Again, preferably a graduate in an electrical/telecommunications related subject, you will have extensive experience of power products marketing/management.

Both positions require excellent communications skills and fluency in a second European language is desirable. Flexibility to travel extensively is essential and experience of a direct marketing environment would be advantageous. Both positions are crucial to Innmac's continued profitability and consequently an excellent package is offered which includes generous basic salary, profit share, company car, free BUPA, life insurance and permanent health insurance. If you would like to apply for either of these positions and may I stress they are not for the faint hearted, then please apply with detailed curriculum vitae to: Catherine Hoskins, Personnel Officer, Innmac (UK) Ltd, Westway Point, Market Street, Bracknell, Berks RG12 1EW.



First Name in Non-Ferrous Stockholding

SALES SPECIALISTS

We are a leading independent stockholder of HIGH PERFORMANCE ALLOYS seeking experienced staff for the following positions:

Sales Office Manager for a new branch in SKEGNESS.

Sales Office Manager for our branch in HALIFAX.

Applicants must have in-depth experience of Aluminium, Copper and Stainless Steel Alloys, either individually or general multi-product knowledge.

Apply to: Mr. C. Stephenson, Managing Director, Columbia House, 19 High St, Earls Barton, Northants, NN16 0JG (0504) 610317.

SALES/SUPPORT SPECIALISTS (CHROMATOGRAPHY)

J.T. Baker Inc. is a subsidiary of Proctor & Gamble and a leading manufacturer and marketer of laboratory products and specialty chemicals, with particular emphasis on Chromatography.

Positioned to launch their UK operation, the company are entering a dynamic growth phase with immediate recruitment needs.

UK SALES EXECUTIVE c. £20,000 package + car. Located centrally and with easy motorway access the successful applicant (aged 25-35) will be an established sales professional with a working knowledge of analytical chemistry and experience in chromatography. Drive and ambition will be key factors for success in this new position, which offers unrivalled responsibility and challenge.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER to £25,000 + benefits. Based at premises in Middlesbrough, the ideal candidate will be technically competent in both chromatography and general sales and enquiries on a daily basis. Essential personal qualities include a good telephone manner, the ability to express ideas clearly and concisely, an organised mind and the desire to work in a demanding environment. This is a key support function and can be developed into an extremely responsible position by the right person.

To discuss your application in complete confidence contact Celia Redford at Sarah Cameron.

DELTA CONSULTANTS
Specialists in Executive & Technical Recruitment
St James's Place, London W1K 3JA
01-481 4481

A SALES CAREER WITH SEN LIFE OF CANADA

Over a million Canadians are members of Sen Life of Canada, a leading life insurance company. We are now recruiting experienced sales professionals to sell life insurance and financial services. We offer a competitive salary, commission, and a comprehensive benefits package. If you are a motivated individual with a proven sales record, we would like to hear from you. Please send your CV to: Sen Life of Canada, 100 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5X 1C5.

DRIVER-COURIERS

25 - 35 required for long established, well established company. PSV licence and experience essential. Salaries and benefits commensurate with experience. Training can be arranged. Send CV to: Delta Consultants, PO Box 2, Hatfield, MK45 0JZ.

MAP OUT YOUR FUTURE WITH CHART

SALES MANAGEMENT

SERVICE INDUSTRY - London Based

We are a leader in the U.K. Field of truck contract hire, rental and associated services. We provide these services throughout the UK from strategically located depots that are run on a highly decentralised basis.

Due to the continuing expansion, the company now requires a Sales Manager to establish and direct the efforts of a sales team based at its depot in London. There will be an emphasis on key account selling, liaison with national accounts customers and the overall direction of the sales force in the area.

Applications are invited from sales professionals with experience of selling services to senior level industrial clients, good negotiation skills, preferably developed in a related service sector, and educated to degree level or equivalent.

Salary is commensurate with the responsibilities circa £18K plus a substantial profit bonus, a premium level car is provided, and a very comprehensive benefits package is available.

Please send full C.V. stating current salary to:

Mr. R.B. Allen, Chart Hire Services Plc,
Six Albany Trading Estate,
Marlborough Road,
London SE1 5AS.

**CHART
HIRE SERVICES**
A DIVISION OF CHART SERVICES PLC

CHARTERHOUSE APPOINTMENTS

FIXED INTEREST FUND MANAGER SAL A.A.E.

Our Client, a major UK institution currently requires a Fixed Interest Fund Manager. Suitable candidates must be able to take a Global view and work with a variety of products. Experience of 2/3 years in this sector is essential. The remuneration package for this position is excellent. Ref: 1595TG

EQUITY ANALYSTS SAL NEG

A major UK Securities House is looking for Equity Analysts who have extensive knowledge of the Southern European Markets on the German Market (must be German speaking). Candidates must have experience in providing fundamental research for a reputable City firm.

SENIOR U.S. TREASURY BOND DEALER TOKYO CIRCA \$400,000

Our client, a major investment bank, seeks an experienced dealer to trade all U.S. GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTS: BONDS, NOTES, BILLS, AGENCIES, FUTURES. The person will manage all related dealers and related sales force. Position reports to Head, Fixed Income Securities. Min 4 years U.S. Treasury experience. Candidates must be willing to relocate to Tokyo. Ref: 1598NH

For a confidential discussion of these positions contact Nigel Haworth or Tim Giles on 481-3188.

Europe House, World Trade Centre, London E1 9AA.

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE WORTH MORE THAN YOU'RE MAKING? LONDON BASED

If you do, here's the opportunity you've been waiting for, a chance to prove what you're really worth in the commercial marketplace. We're looking for highly motivated young professionals currently living in the Greater London area, aged at least 23, to join a financial planning team as part of our dynamic expansion programme.

It's the first step to an exciting and diversified career, leading to branch management and beyond for single-minded achievers who know how to make the most of their potential.

If you feel you're undervalued in your present position, and feel you would like to work in a progressive environment where achievement is rewarded well, then get in touch with us by phoning Alan Richardson on 01-436 4877.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE AIMING FOR THE TOP

Residential property is an exciting and rapidly changing market. And when the dust settles we intend to be at the top. Already one of London's most successful estate agencies, we are expanding rapidly. We require achievement-orientated individuals of high calibre, who have attained considerable success in their careers, but feel the need to change direction.

Experience of estate agency is not essential but a successful background in negotiating with people in an upmarket environment is. Suitable backgrounds include advertising, life assurance, public relations, employment agency or banking.

The successful applicants will need to be aged 25 years or over, secure in their personal lives - and to have a quiet and unassuming manner which belies a considerable personal strength.

You will need to be absolutely committed to your career - your business can be very exciting and very profitable. You will be expected to earn an income of circa £30,000 p.a. after an initial six-month training period. A company car is also provided.

If you have what it takes, you will go very far very quickly. We want our most talented staff to go right to the top with us. Please forward a detailed CV in strict confidence to Mr F. Sutaris, FARRON SUTARIS & CO, 89 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JZ.

A CITY CHALLENGE

Whilst the Stock Market suffers, our client grows. To accelerate expansion they need

Commodity Sales Trainees to £22,000

You must be motivated by pressure and financial rewards, be 21 to 26 with a good standard of education and have excellent interpersonal skills.

Experience in this field is not necessary but a desire to succeed is.

Call
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As part of Britain's leading publicly quoted specialist publishing group, Cornhill Publications has established an international reputation for quality and professionalism. We have always worked on a team basis, with the emphasis on developing the individual's dynamic environment, working closely with professional managers whose top priority is to ensure you succeed.

OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOUR SUCCESS
If you are an articulate, dedicated and highly motivated individual who can convince us you possess the enthusiasm and desire to succeed in an advertising sales career call us on 01-240 1515 and ask for Chris Humphreys or Julian Wildman.

Sales Assistants

THOMAS PINK are retailers of excellent quality shirts for gentlemen and ladies. We are looking for well presented, well spoken Sales Assistants for our elegant shops in Mayfair and the City. Experience preferred.

Please write with details to:
Kathy Millington-Drake
Thomas Pink Ltd
92 Fulham Road
London SW3 6HR

15 Dover Street, W1
01-471 1075
Drayton Gardens, SW10
01-773 5795

16 Cuthbert Street, EC2
01-473 1495
1 Queen Street, E1
01-252 44628

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY SALES

Resort Properties Ltd is an international property marketing group currently entering a new phase of expansion in the UK. We therefore have a number of vacancies for professional intelligent dynamic sales professionals. We need reliable self starters aged 27-50 who expect high rewards for their outstanding sales ability. Experience in the sales of overseas property is preferred but applicants with a highly successful sales background will be considered. You should be flexible, prepared to work evenings and weekends and be free to travel abroad as required.

This position will be of interest to individuals already earning £30,000 + pa. To apply please ring Liz Blackburn on 01-364 1122 ext 219.

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

TELEPHONE
SALES
EXECUTIVES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE TIMES

Due to internal promotions we are looking for bright, dynamic, hardworking, enthusiastic and determined people to join our successful Classified Department.

If you are aged between 20 and 30, well educated, have some commercial experience, can type and are looking for a challenging career within an exciting environment, then we can offer you full training, £9,450 p.a. (reviewed after 3 months) + approximately £3,000 commission, BUPA and generous holiday entitlement.

To apply telephone
Sue Powell or Gill Sage on
01-822 9343
during office hours

ICI-INTERNATIONAL, COMPETITIVE, INNOVATIVE
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ICI (Paints) PLC is the largest international paint company with a worldwide manufacturing capability.

In the UK the group is the brand leader in the decorative paint market with its range of "DULUX" products. It is also a major supplier of surface coatings to industry and has large resin manufacturing facilities.

We also manufacture in France and Germany and many overseas associates look to the UK based Division Engineering and Technical Departments for expertise.

Stammarth Works, which has modern plant with computerised control, is one of two principal manufacturing sites in England and it is there that we have the following vacancies.



WORLD CLASS

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

We require applications from candidates with 1st or 2.1 Honours Degrees in Mechanical Engineering and who subsequently have had a minimum of 3 years experience in design or maintenance.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the maintenance of a production or services area under the guidance of a Senior Engineer.

TECHNICAL OFFICER

We require applications from candidates in their mid-20s with 2-3 years practical industrial experience possessing a good degree in a Technical subject.

The work will involve project activities in support of Plant development programmes, ensuring the Company remains in the forefront of Paint and Resin manufacture.

For both positions candidates must be able to demonstrate managerial potential and have the necessary ability and drive to progress in the organisation. Career development may well involve transfer to Group Headquarters at Slough or within Europe. Some fluency in French or German would be an advantage. A competitive starting salary on a progressive scale, profit sharing bonus, relocation where appropriate and excellent employee benefits will be provided.

Please apply by letter with a Curriculum Vitae to:

Mr M Browne
Works Personnel Officer
ICI (Paints) PLC
Nashdown Road
Stammarth
Suffolk
IP14 2AD
Tel: (0449) 61 31 61

Closing Date: Friday 4 March 1988

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Due to our considerable growth, we are looking for people to join our highly successful classified Telephone Sales Force.

If you are ambitious, ideally living in London, aged 20-30, Display Flair and Determination, possess good typing skills and wish to join our motivated Sales Team:

we can offer you:-

- Full Training
- A good starting salary (reviewed after 3 months)
- Generous bonus payments
- BUPA
- Excellent Holidays

To apply telephone:-

Mandy Niall

on

01 822 9393

During Office Hours

The Worshipful Company
of Grocers - Clerk

THE COMPANY

◇ The Grocers is one of the 12 great City Livery Companies. Its main purpose is educational and charitable and it plays an important traditional, ceremonial and social role in the City.

RESPONSIBILITIES

◇ The Clerk is "Chief Operating Officer" of a substantial business. Reporting to the Master and Court, he runs the day to day affairs of the Company, supervises the management of its property and investments and controls a staff of about 20 at Grocers Hall. He also has an important liaison function with the Company's schools and with its Church of England Livings.

QUALIFICATIONS

◇ Candidates will be aged 45-50 and have had successful careers, possibly in the armed, civil or diplomatic services although a professional or industrial background preferably with a qualification would also be appropriate. They will be capable managers and administrators with the presence and manner to fill an official and ceremonial role at a senior level.

REMUNERATION

◇ The Company is offering an excellent remuneration package.

N-B
SELECTION
LTD

Please reply enclosing your cv, quoting Reference G0618 to:
37 Dover Street, London W1X 3RB

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GRADUATE RETRAINING
SCHEME

MSc Degrees in OR or Computer Science

- Do you already have or expect to obtain in 1988, a good honours degree (normally upper second or above) in a scientific or numerate discipline, including those for which there is limited demand among employers?
- Would you like to be retrained in Computer Science or Operational Research with subsequent employment as a scientist in the Ministry of Defence?
- If the answer to the above questions is yes, the Defence Science Group of MOD is offering successful candidates:
 1. A grant of £5,000
 2. Payment of tuition fees
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- Retaining will be accomplished using suitable MSc or Diploma level one year courses available at universities or polytechnics and commencing in the Autumn of 1988. Successful students will be expected to take up their appointment with the MOD Science Group on completion of their course.
- A limited number of immediate appointments of SO or HSO level may also be offered, with subsequent training to follow where appropriate.
- Further details and application forms are available from: Mr Mike Taylor, CH(S)10R, Room 6117, St. Christopher House, Southwark Street, London SE1 0TD.
- The closing date for applications is 31 March 1988.

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FOR LAMINATED
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We are seeking an experienced Sales Person with knowledge of the construction industry to join our Sales Team.

Candidates should be based in the Oxford area with a view to covering the S.E. England area.

The position offers an above average salary, company car and other company benefits.

Please write giving full details of age, qualifications, experience, and current salary to:

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Offers vacancies for trainee consultants. High income potential and real long-term career progression.

For full details contact Martin Mulvaney on:

01 930 7242

or send C.V. to:

125 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5EA.

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£12,600 + Benefits.

Prestigious HQ in exclusive West End setting seeks experienced, graduate recruiter of secretaries (3 yrs min), familiar with SSF/SMP, possibly IPM qualified. The role is quite special, offers excellent prospects.

Call HELEN WOODS

01 629 0777.

Office Angels
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Applications are invited from qualified accountants with international experience, a pragmatic approach to business, and a willingness to travel from time to time. The ability to work as part of a small management team, whilst making a high profile contribution to the success of the business, is essential.

Earnings in excess of £25K, plus executive car and usual benefits, will be offered to the successful applicant. CV's, with covering letter giving daytime and evening telephone numbers should be sent to:

Mrs. P. A. Campbell, CooperVision,
Stable Block - The Firs,
High Street, Whitechurch, Bucks., HP22 4JU

Applications are invited from both
male and female applicants

CooperVision

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(West End)

The M.I. Group is a major financial services company with the highest standards of professionalism. Already we advise 300,000 clients with investments approaching £300 million and we are expanding fast. We offer exceptional career prospects to men and women aged 23-35 with skills to become financial consultants marketing our first class range of financial services.

We give complete training and provide technical and administrative support to help maximise your earnings. Early promotion prospects are good and we operate a very attractive share option scheme. For full details call us today. Please phone (Robert Kay) on 01-629 6937

M.I.GROUP

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£17,000

An General Secretary for this professional international women's organisation promoting women's issues, your communication skills in English, French and Spanish coupled with management expertise are paramount. Literacy, numeracy, experience of board meetings, organising conferences, budgets and the production of international publications are all aspects of this unique opportunity.

Call Jackie Mills
on 01-523 1226

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right company

ARE YOU READY? Ambitious,
Good, energetic, want to earn
money? 01 436 9790

REPRESENTATIVE
- GREECE -

Specialist tour operator requires representative for an unsupervised Greek island from April/May to October. Applicants should be 23 to 35, smart, intelligent, hard working and self motivated. The ability to deal with people and proven organisational skills are essential.

Phone Elaine Welby
Laekarina Holidays
062 982 4981

EARN Substantial income from
selling small auto parts in G
Mendel's C2. British, German,
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Contact: Chas
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Glittering
Opportunities

Garrard & Company, the Crown Jewellers, are looking for a bright and enthusiastic person to complement their existing sales team.

Involved in all aspects of selling, the successful applicant will have the ability to communicate well at all levels and the confidence to mix with an international clientele. Previous experience in retailing high quality merchandise would be an advantage, however, an immaculate presentation is essential.

If you have the drive and motivation to create an exciting career for yourself, we will reward you with a competitive salary and generous range of Company benefits.

Please write to Miss Alison Jowett,
Personnel Department, 106 Regent Street,
London, W1R 6JH,
enclosing a C.V. and
stating salary requirements, or call
for an application form on 01-734 7020.

SALES
EXECUTIVE

DEALING ROOM SYSTEMS CITY

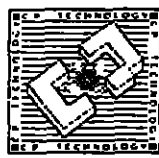
CP Technology is a well-established force in financial communications - designing, developing and building state-of-the-art dealing-room systems that meet the needs of a dynamic and expanding industry.

Putting together real-time trading systems is not simple. It requires a superior combination of computer technology and software capabilities - a combination that CP has achieved by bringing together a wide range of expertise and by joining forces with DEC in a co-operative marketing programme. We confidently predict a bright future.

You can contribute to that future by extending our client base and seizing the exceptional business opportunities created by the quality of our products and the dynamic expansion of our market-place.

Working closely with clients and in-house specialists, you will identify needs, prepare and present solutions and negotiate final contracts. Naturally, you will be a professional with excellent communication skills, a proven track record in systems sales and, preferably, some knowledge of the financial market.

In return for your skills we can offer you an excellent basic salary, plus commission that should see you earning well in excess of £40k. and unrivalled career prospects.



If this is the opportunity you have been looking for, write with details of your career and salary to: Andrew Rudolph, CP Technology, 54-58 Bartholomew Close, London, EC1A 7ED or phone 01-600-0633.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER
£18,000 + BENEFITS

A family Group of Companies requires a qualified accountant to act as a Financial Controller and Accountant. The Group is involved in the Printing, Plastics and Engineering industries. Applicants should have a working knowledge of computerised accounts and foreign currency transactions, and will manage a small accounts department, as well as being an active member of the management team.

Please write with details C.V. to The Managing Director,
Bicknells London Ltd, Cannon Street, London, EC2T 0DR.



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consultants.

Please Jellie on 01 479 1521

INTERNATIONAL
PROPERTY SALES

Recent property Ltd is an international property marketing group currently entering a new phase of expansion in the U.K.

We therefore have a number of vacancies for presentable intelligent dynamic sales professionals. We need reliable self starters aged 27-50 who expect high rewards for their outstanding sales ability. Experience in the sales of overseas property is preferred but applicants with a highly successful sales background will be considered. You should be flexible, prepared to work evenings and weekends and be free to travel abroad as required.

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See You Then for triumphant return

By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)

With See You Then, Burrough Hill and Desert Orchid all standing their ground at Wincanton today, regular visitors to the ever-popular Somerset course are set to enjoy an unprecedented treat there.

Past winners of the Champion Hurdle, the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the King George VI Stakes have all competed on the track before, but never at the same meeting.

Just for good measure, such accomplished performers as Floyd, Convicted, Jimmy Lorenzo, Past Glories, Private Audition, Kildimo and Steady are also in action this afternoon.

See You Then, winner of

the Champion Hurdle for the past three years, begins the defence of his crown with a crack at the Kingwell Hurdle.

While admitting that his training schedule has obviously been geared solely to their attempt to win the title yet again at Cheltenham on March 15, his trainer, Nicky Henderson, was still full of encouragement yesterday, saying: "I have to be pleased with him. For a horse who has had more than his fair share of problems over the years the last six weeks have gone uncommonly well."

Henderson added that, following a good school over six flights of hurdles at Ascot on Monday, See You Then is fitter now than when he made that winning

seasonal debut at Haydock Park last year even though he has not been taken for a public race since that time.

Instead, See You Then has been able to do an abundance of good ground work on grass near home, mainly on private gallops near Lambourn, at Manton and Kingston.

So with a question mark hanging over the heads of Floyd and Convicted, I believe the stage is set for See You Then to reassure his countless admirers that he is on course to win the Champion Hurdle a record fourth time, especially as Past Glories, the last runner to be broken down at Liverpool last April.

After just over two years spent on the sidelines,

Burrough Hill had the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner in 1984, begins his comeback in the Jim Ford Challenge Cup.

Even Jenny Pitman, his trainer, had said that a victory would be too much to expect, but that he will race this year after so long an absence.

Actually, Kildimo has much more to prove because he is currently second favourite for the Gold Cup, despite that lamentable run at Cheltenham in December.

In his last two races he has been let down by his jumping. In theory that should not be a problem around Wincanton, but the fact remains that the fences there still managed to find out Ten Plus last month.

Today, Kildimo will cer-

tainly need to be at his sharpest if he is to remain in touch with that flamboyant grey Desert Orchid, who is quite capable of turning the race into a procession. That is precisely what he did on the corresponding occasion 12 months ago when he won very easily indeed.

So it is Desert Orchid for me to become the middle leg of a treble for his seemingly irrepressible trainer, David Elsworth, with Shimshek (3.0) and Hypnos (4.30) completing the three-timer.

Mrs Pitman and Henderson, although preoccupied, with the mark at Folkestone with Saddle Night (1.45) and No One To Blame (4.45) respectively.

Levy Board places accent on support for poor relations

By George Rae

A £2 million increase in prize-money for 1989 and loans of some £10 million over the next three years to improve racecourse facilities were the main themes of the Horserace Betting Levy Board's policy statement issued yesterday.

Prize-money, increased by 15% per cent on this year, will total £14.85 million in 1989, with at least £1 million allocated towards the lower tier of racing. The distribution of prize-money remains 60-40 in favour of Flat racing.

Pressed on whether the Levy Board was simply subsidising bad horses, chairman Sir Ian Trethowan replied: "It was felt that in the current climate, with the Board's revenue buoyant, we had a good opportunity to improve the financing of the bottom of the scale."

Tristram Ricketts, the Levy Board's chief executive, added: "Although the details have yet to be finalised, and it will be done on a basis of agreement between the Jockey Club and the Horserace Advisory Council, we are thinking in terms of a minimum of £1,200 added money for National Hunt racing and £1,500 for the Flat."

Of the remaining £1 million, Sir Ian commented: "The pattern race contributions have not been decided but again one of the areas we will be looking at is the late-season two-year-old races, which is one of the areas targeted by the French in their recent announcement of prize-money increases. It is important for racers and punters alike that we encourage the top horses to race in this country."

Levy Board finances are in particularly good health at present with an increase in betting turnover fueling an increase in levy revenue. Betting turnover rose 12 per cent during the 1986-87 financial year, although a downturn to around 6 per cent is forecast for the current term.

The often spartan standard of spectator facilities on many British racecourses has long been a source of complaint, and it was gratifying that the Levy Board reported many tracks, spurred on by increasing attendances, addressing themselves to the problem.

"There are major schemes in the pipeline at 13 major courses, including Liverpool, Cheltenham and Newmarket, as well as smaller, but no less important

projects at most of the other courses." Sir Ian continued. "I have no doubt that better facilities contributed to the increase in attendances last year and I believe we have an outstanding opportunity to upgrade standards of our racecourses."

"Racegoers are therefore more likely to return, increasing a course's income, which in turn allows us to fund further improvements."

The effects of Satellite Information Services' contribution to racecourses is also being felt. SIS now has some 1,500 betting shops and the Levy Board announced that during 1989 it is to conduct a major survey into how the new service has affected betting.

"Income from that source is a significant element," Ricketts said. "In the past a

number of the lesser courses have been left just to bump along the bottom, but now, with this extra income, they can initiate improvement programmes and come to us for additional help," he went on. "In the past they couldn't improve because they did not have sufficient finance to repay the necessary loans."

I think, too, that racecourse management is becoming more dynamic. They have realized the need to go out and compete for customers with the rest of the leisure market, and therefore the need to provide adequate facilities. This is an excellent opportunity for them to help themselves."

The Board is to set aside £2 million for all-weather racing in anticipation of the Jockey Club approving a suitable racing surface. "We will be looking at options from courses on the basis that they will be sound long-term investments," Sir Ian said. "Although in principle the Board is in favour of all-weather racing, it is broadly in favour of anything which will maintain the level."

The current three-year levy agreement expires in March next year and the Levy Board will seek another agreement over three years with the Bookmakers' Committee.

Woodrow Wyatt's review on *Horse Power* by Christopher R. Hill Page 19

WINCANTON

Selections
By Mandarini
2.00 Lanacre Bridge.
2.30 See You Then (nap).
3.00 Shimshek.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.30 Desert Orchid.

Going: good to soft

2.00 RACECRAFT HANDICAP CHASE (22,222: 2m 5f) (14 runners)

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|----|
| 2-32223 | COUGHLANS RUN (5) (C.F.R.) (S) Sainsbury T Foster 9-11-10 | H Deane | 50 |
| 4-19-192 | LARRY-O (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 5-100-100 | PERMANENT JURY (5) (C.F.R.) (S) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 6-100-100 | KOLLEGE (5) (S) (C.F.R.) (S) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | Peter Hobbs | 50 |
| 7-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
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| 72-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 73-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 74-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 75-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 76-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 77-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 78-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 79-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 80-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 81-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 82-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 83-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 84-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 85-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 86-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 87-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 88-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 89-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 90-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 91-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 92-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 93-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 94-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 95-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 96-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 97-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 98-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 99-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |
| 100-100-100 | LANACRE BRIDGE (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | R Atwell | 50 |

BETTING: 4-1 Lanacre Bridge, 5-2 See You Then, 11-10 Shimshek, 5-1 Lanacre Bridge, 7-1 Lanacre Bridge.

1987: SOCRS DOWNE 8-11-2 S McNeil (1) King 18 ran.

2.30 KINGWELL HURDLE (Listed race: £2,587: 2m) (8 runners)

- | | | | |
|------------|--|----------------|----|
| 1-11-11-1 | SEE YOU THEN (5) (C.F.R.) (S) (W) Hedges D Elsworth 11-11-10 | S Smith Eccles | 50 |
| 2-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 3-11-11-1 | FLOYD (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 4-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 5-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 6-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 7-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 8-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 9-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 10-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 11-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 12-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 13-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 14-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 15-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 16-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 17-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 18-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 19-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 20-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 21-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 22-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 23-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 24-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 25-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 26-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 27-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 28-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 29-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 30-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 31-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | B de Vries | 50 |
| 32-11-11-1 | CONVICTED (5) (S) (D) Andrew H Winter 8-11-10 | | |

FOOTBALL: NEWCASTLE UNITED FORWARD SCOTCHES TRANSFER RUMOURS

Mirandinha wants more Brazilians to play in England

By Ian Ross

Mirandinha, the Brazilian international, yesterday reaffirmed his intention of honouring the three-year contract he signed with Newcastle United last summer.

Rumours that the South American was considering quitting the English game in preference for a lucrative contract with a leading European club have circulated around the North-East since United were knocked out of the FA Cup by Wimbledon at St James' Park on Saturday.

But Mirandinha yesterday pledged his immediate future to the club which paid £800,000 for his services in July. Mirandinha not only insisted he had every intention of staying with United,

but revealed he is actively encouraging other Brazilian players to move to England.

"I have never thought about going back to Brazil this season. I intend to play out this season and then go home for a rest. I shall then return to Newcastle and fulfil my three-year contract," he said. "I hope this will end some of the speculation. I want to stress that I have no regrets at all about coming to Newcastle. I am happy here and I have told other Brazilian players that it is a good life in England."

Mirandinha, who has been linked with Atlético Madrid and Paris St Germain, said he has yet to recapture his best form. "I can play three times

better than I have been doing recently, perhaps I am trying too hard. You do not stop being a footballer overnight and I still believe I can score 20 goals this season. Things may not go right sometimes but that is part of football," he said.

Mirandinha was also critical of Lawrie McMenemy, the former manager of Sunderland, who this week intimated that the Brazilian had failed to come to terms with English football. "I cannot take it seriously because it comes from someone whose only claim to fame is that he took Sunderland into the third division for the first time in their history," Mirandinha said.

Kamara is banned and fined by club

By Dennis Shaw

Swindon Town have fined Chris Kamara £1,000 and banned him from playing for a month as the result of an incident at Swindon last Saturday when Jim McInnes needed facial surgery.

Lou Macari, the Swindon manager, yesterday issued a new statement by claiming that the coloured Kamara's alleged assault was prompted by racist remarks made by McInnes.

"We've hit Kamara hard but we feel it warranted a mild punishment," Macari said. "I would have been even stiffer if we weren't certain he was severely provoked during the game. We are racist taunts from McInnes. Kamara has accepted that he was wrong to strike an opponent and knows that he let the club down as well as himself."

Kamara declined to comment but Ian McNeill, the Swindon manager, refused claims of racist taunts, saying there was nothing to support them.

McInnes and Kamara, he said, had a "little tiff" during the game. It started when Kamara elbowed McInnes in the mouth and McInnes "had a little tiff" back. They were spurs-of-the-moment things that could happen in any match. McNeill continued, and there was no excuse for what Kamara did later, which the manager claimed was premeditated as Kamara had fully 20 years to reach McInnes after the whistle had gone.

Swindon police are gathering evidence from witnesses of the attack. The evidence will be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service to decide if Kamara should be charged for the first Football League player to be charged for assault on the pitch.

Last night it was not clear whether Swindon's immediate discipline would be regarded as sufficient to close the case. A new danger for the Swindon player is that the FA, who have officially approved the police intervention, could consider a charge of bringing the game into disrepute since the offence has been admitted by the club.

The game, which Swindon won 2-1, ended with McInnes lying prostrate on the pitch. He had to undergo surgery for a skull fracture and a cut lip that required five stitches.

Schuster to face Hughes forced to retire at Swansea

Barcelona (AFP) — Bernd Schuster, the West German international, yesterday said he was a three-year suspended prisoner after being charged with tax fraud.

Schuster is alleged to have submitted false tax declarations to the Spanish authorities, claiming that his income between 1983 and 1986 was 25 million pesetas (about £100,000), when the real sum was in the region of 60 million pesetas (about £230,000).

The discrepancy means that he owes about £25,000 in taxes. Meanwhile, Schuster, who has had a mixed relationship with Barcelona and who has reportedly signed a contract to play for Real Madrid next season, is also in trouble with his club — he has been fined for leaving the field without permission during their home defeat by Athletic Bilbao at the weekend. The amount of the fine has not been revealed.

Michael Hughes, the Swansea City goalkeeper, is being forced into early retirement because of a brain disorder. The former Wales youth international, aged 23, has been told by a neurologist that another blow to the head could prove fatal.

Hughes said: "I've been told that another blow or two could be enough to cause a brain disorder. I feel fine at the moment." The condition was discovered during a brain scan after Hughes had complained of worsening headaches and dizziness.

Hughes, who joined Swansea in 1983, has not played since August. He has been told that he must retire from football. Hughes said he was "in a bit of a state" but he was not going to let it affect his life. He was knocked out against Crewe Alexandra on Boxing Day.

Paul Ridout, who was among the spectators at Swansea Town's 2-0 Simod Cup quarter-final win over Norwich City on Tuesday, has had talks with the Swindon manager, Lou Macari, about a possible return to the Welsh club where his career began.

Ridout, now with Bari in Italy, will also be training today with Swindon, who are interested in him.

West Bromwich Albion are hoping to sign the Bradford forward Ron Fitcher in time for Saturday's relegation match against Reading. Albion are keen on a swap deal which would take their out-of-favour central defender, Martin Dickinson to Yorkshire.

Nigel Clough, Nottingham Forest's England Under 21 forward, has given up his place on the club's trip to the Canary Islands to play in two reserve team matches on the advice of his father, Brian, the club's manager. Clough junior has only just returned to action after tearing a hamstring.

David Platt the Leicester City manager has banned jeans and any form of denim wear in order to smarten up his squad, who are battling to stay in the second division.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Dewsbury handed a reprieve

By Michael Stevenson

Dewsbury, bottom of the second division, have been saved from the immediate danger of extinction by a £25,000 long-term loan, at low interest rates, from the Rugby League management committee (Keith Macklin writes).

The club chairman, Rodney Hardcastle, put the case for Dewsbury, who are trying to exist on less than £1,000, to the committee's meeting of the committee in Leeds.

Afterwards the League's secretary-general, David Onley, said: "Like many other struggling clubs Dewsbury would be just about able to pay their way if it were not for the provisions of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act, which require instant expenditure on ground maintenance and improvements."

Wakefield Trinity and Barrow have each been fined £700 for a brawl in the match between the clubs last month. However, only £200 has to be paid now, with the rest suspended provided the clubs do not get into further trouble before next January.

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE CUP DRAW: 1st Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 2nd Round: Barrow v Oldham; 3rd Round: Hull v Wakefield; 4th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 5th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 6th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 7th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 8th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 9th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 10th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 11th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 12th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 13th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 14th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 15th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 16th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 17th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 18th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 19th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 20th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 21st Round: Hull v Wakefield; 22nd Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 23rd Round: Hull v Wakefield; 24th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 25th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 26th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 27th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 28th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 29th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 30th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 31st Round: Hull v Wakefield; 32nd Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 33rd Round: Hull v Wakefield; 34th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 35th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 36th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 37th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 38th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 39th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 40th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 41st Round: Hull v Wakefield; 42nd Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 43rd Round: Hull v Wakefield; 44th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 45th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 46th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 47th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 48th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 49th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 50th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 51st Round: Hull v Wakefield; 52nd Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 53rd Round: Hull v Wakefield; 54th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 55th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 56th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 57th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 58th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 59th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 60th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 61st Round: Hull v Wakefield; 62nd Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 63rd Round: Hull v Wakefield; 64th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 65th Round: Hull v Wakefield; 66th Round: Leeds v Wakefield; 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